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INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

D R I L L

OF THE

CANADIAN VOLUNTEER MILITIA

RIFLE COMPANIES.



TORONTO:  
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1856.

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Toronto, 12th May, 1856.*

THE Instructions for the drill of the Volunteer Militia Rifle Companies of the Province, in this Book, are identical with those in force in Her Majesty's Service. And these instructions, together with the Book of "Instruction of Musquetry" already issued to the Officers of the Rifle Companies, will be found to comprise all that is essential to their efficiency. But it must be borne in mind, that without a careful study of the above works, the Officers of these Companies can neither acquire a knowledge of the principles on which all Military movements are based, or impart such knowledge to others.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief, however, is satisfied that the same principles of zeal and loyalty which originally prompted Officers and Men to Volunteer into the Active Force of the Province, will further stimulate them to attain as high a degree of proficiency in drill and knowledge of the Arms intrusted to their care, as can be expected from the nature of the Service they have entered.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General  
and Commander in Chief.

DE ROTTENBURG, Colonel,  
*Adjutant General Militia.*



THE TESTIMONY OF THE VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
 The testimony of the veterans of the Civil War is a valuable source of information for the study of the war. The veterans of the Civil War are a group of men who have lived through the most difficult and dangerous years of our country's history. They have seen the fighting, the suffering, and the triumph. Their testimony is a record of the events of the war as they were experienced by those who were actually there. It is a record of the men who fought, the men who suffered, and the men who won. It is a record of the men who have made the great sacrifices for the freedom and independence of our country. The testimony of the veterans of the Civil War is a treasure that should be preserved for the future. It is a treasure that should be passed on to the generations that follow. It is a treasure that should be used to teach the young men of today about the sacrifices that were made for the freedom and independence of our country. The testimony of the veterans of the Civil War is a treasure that should be preserved for the future. It is a treasure that should be passed on to the generations that follow. It is a treasure that should be used to teach the young men of today about the sacrifices that were made for the freedom and independence of our country.

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# RECRUIT.

## WITHOUT ARMS.

### SINGLE RANK, AT OPEN ORDER.

OPEN order is taken by each recruit stretching out his right arm and keeping that distance from his right-hand man.

#### S. 1. *Position of the Soldier.*

The equal squareness of the shoulders and body to the front is the first and great principle of the position of a soldier. The heels must be in a line and closed ;—the knees straight ;—the toes turned out, so that the feet may form an angle of 60 degrees ;—the arms hanging close to the body ;—the elbows turned in and close to the side ;—the hands open to the front, with the view of preserving the elbow in the indispensable position as above described, and thereby of preventing false distances when marching in line ;—the little fingers lightly touching the seams of the trowsers, with the thumb close to the forefinger ;—the belly rather drawn in, and the breast advanced, but without constraint ;—the body upright, but inclining forward, so that the weight of it may principally bear on the fore part of the feet ;—the head to be erect, and the eyes straight to the front.

N. B. The words in the margin, which are printed in *Italics*, are the words of command to be given by the instructor.

All words of command, and particularly the words *Halt* and *March*, must be given distinctly and loud.

# RECRUIT—Without Arms.

## S. 2. *Standing at Ease.*

*Stand at Ease.*

On the words *Stand at Ease*, the right foot is to be drawn back about six inches, and the greatest part of the weight of the body brought upon it; the left knee a little bent; the hands brought together before the body; the palms being struck smartly together, and that of the right hand then slipped over the back of the left; but the shoulders to be kept back and square; the head to the front, and the whole attitude without constraint.

*Attention.*

On the word *Attention*, the hands are to fall smartly upon the outside of the thighs; the right heel to be brought up in a line with the left; and the proper unconstrained position of a soldier immediately resumed.

When the recruit falls in for instruction, he is first to be taught to place himself, on the word *Attention*, in the position above described, to remain perfectly steady, and to give his whole attention to his commander. Before the word *Attention* is given, and occasionally during the time of drill, the recruit may be allowed to rest by *Standing at Ease*, as above explained.

## S. 3. *Eyes to the Right.*

*Eyes Right.*

*Eyes Left.*

*Eyes Front.*

On the word *Eyes Right*, glance the eyes to the right with a slight turn of the head. At the words *Eyes Left*, cast the eyes in like manner to the left. On the words *Eyes Front*, the look and head are to be directly to the front, the habitual position of the soldier.

These motions are useful on the wheeling of divisions,—or in closing to a flank,—or when dressing is ordered after a halt: and particular attention must be paid, in the several turnings of the eyes, to prevent the soldier from moving his body, which must be preserved perfectly square to the front;—

but in all marches to the front, the recruit, at open order, must be taught to select objects in his front, and to march straight upon them:—at close order, the touch, with the preservation of a uniform and proper cadence, must form his only guide in marching.

S. 4. *The Facings.*

In going through the facings, the left heel never quits the ground; the body must rather incline forward, and the knees be kept straight.

*To the Right,  
face.*

1st. Place the hollow of the right foot smartly against the left heel, keeping the shoulders square to the front.

2nd. Raise the toes, and turn to the right on both heels.

*To the Left,  
face.*

1st. Place the right heel against the hollow of the left foot, keeping the shoulders square to the front.

2nd. Raise the toes, and turn to the left on both heels.

*To the Right  
about, face.*

1st. Place the ball of the right toe against the left heel, keeping the shoulders square to the front.

2nd. Raise the toes, and turn to the right about on both heels.

3rd. Bring the right foot smartly back in a line with the left.

*To the Left  
about, face.*

1st. Place the right heel against the ball of the left toe, keeping the shoulders square to the front.

2nd. Raise the toes, and turn to the left about on both heels.

3rd. Bring up the right smartly in a line with the left.

## RECRUIT—*Without Arms.*

*Right or Left,  
half face.*

On the word of command *Right* or *Left Half Face*, each man will make an exact half face, as directed, by drawing back or advancing the right foot one inch, by which the whole will stand individually in echelon.

*Front.*

When it is intended to resume the original front, the word of command *Front*, will be given, and the whole will face, as accurately as possible, to their former front.

*Right or  
Left about  
three-quarters  
face.*

When it is necessary to perform the diagonal march to the rear, the recruit will receive the word *Right (or Left about) three-quarters face*, upon which he brings the ball of the right foot (not the ball of the toe) to the left heel, or the right heel to the ball of the left foot, and makes a three-quarters face in the given direction. Upon the word *Front*, if he has faced to the right, he fronts to the left; and if he has faced to the left, he fronts to the right.

*Front.*

The feet in the first of the above motions are to be slipped back or brought forward without a jerk; the movement being from the hip, so that the body is kept perfectly steady until faced.

The greatest precision must be observed in these facings, for if they are not exactly executed, a body of men, after being properly dressed, will lose their dressing on every small movement of facing.

### S. 5. *Position in Marching.*

In marching, the soldier must maintain the position of the body as directed in Sect. 1. He must be well balanced on his limbs. His arms and hands must be kept perfectly steady by his sides, and on no account be suffered to move or vibrate; care must be taken that the hand does not cling to the thigh, or partake in the least degree of the movement of the limb. The body must be kept erect and square to the front. The movement of the leg and thigh must spring from the haunch,



and be free and natural. The foot must be raised sufficiently high to clear the ground without grazing it, carried straight to the front, and, without being drawn back, placed softly on the ground, so as not to jerk or shake the body in the slightest degree. The head to be kept well up, and straight to the front, and the eyes not to be turned to the right or left.

S. 6. *Slow Step.*

*March.*

{ On the word *March*, the left foot is carried 30 inches to the front, and without being drawn back is placed softly on the ground so as not to jerk or shake the body; the recruit is to be taught to take 75 of these steps in a minute.

The recruit must be carefully trained, and thoroughly instructed in this step, as an essential foundation for arriving at accuracy in the paces of more celerity. This is the slowest step at which troops are to move.

S. 7. *The Halt.*

*Halt.*

{ On the word *Halt*, let the rear foot be brought upon a line with the advanced one, so as to finish the step which was being taken when the command was given.

N.B. The words *Halt, dress*—to be considered as one word of command.

Three or four recruits will now be formed in one rank at open distance, and instructed as follows.

S. 8. *Stepping out.*

*Step out.*

{ The squad marches, as already directed, in slow time. On the words *Step out*, the recruit must be taught to lengthen his step to 33 inches, by leaning forward a little, but without altering the cadence.

## RECRUIT—Without Arms.

This step is necessary, when a temporary exertion in line, and to the front, is required ; and is applied both to slow and quick time ; and at the words (slow or quick step) the pace of 30 inches must be resumed.

S. 9. *Stepping short.**Step short.**Forward.*

On the words *Step short*, the foot advancing will finish its pace, and afterwards each recruit will step as far as the ball of his toe, and no farther, until the word *Forward* be given, when the usual pace of 30 inches is to be given.

This step is useful when a momentary retardment of either a battalion in line, or of a division in column, shall be required.

S. 10. *Marking Time.**Mark Time.**Forward.*

On the words *Mark Time*, the foot then advancing completes its pace, after which the cadence is continued, without gaining any ground, but alternately throwing out the foot and bringing it back square with the other. At the word *Forward*, the usual pace of 30 inches will be taken.

This step is necessary when a column, division, &c., on the march, has to wait for the coming up of others.

S. 11. *The Side or Closing Step.*

The side or closing step is performed from the halt in quick time, by the following commands :

*Right Close—Quick March.*

*Left Close—Quick March.*

*Right Close,  
March.*

In closing to the right, on the words *Quick March*, eyes are turned to the right, and each man carries his right foot about 10 inches directly to his right (or, if the files are closed, to his neighbour's left foot), and instantly brings up his left foot till the heel touches his right heel, and proceeds to take the next step in the same manner; the whole with perfect precision of time, shoulders kept square, knees not bent, and in the true line on which the body is formed. At the word *Halt*, the whole halt, turn their eyes to the front, and are perfectly steady. (Vide S. 3, Part II.)

*Halt.*

NOTE.—In closing on rough or broken ground, the knees must necessarily be bent.

### S. 12. *Stepping Back.*

*Step Back,  
March.*

The *Step Back* is performed in the slow time and pace of 30 inches from the halt. On the command *Step Back—March*, the recruit must be taught to move straight to the rear, preserving his shoulders square to the front and his body erect. On the word *Halt*, the foot in front must be brought back square with the other.

*Halt.*

A few paces only of the *Step Back* can be necessary at a time.

### S. 13. *Changing the Feet.*

*Change Feet.*

To change the feet in marching, the advanced foot completes its pace, the ball of the other is brought up quickly to the heel of the advanced one, which instantly makes another step forward, so that the cadence may not be lost.

This may be required of an individual who is stepping with a different foot from the rest of his division; in doing which he will in fact take two successive steps with the same foot.

RECRUIT—*Without Arms.*

Each recruit should be separately and carefully instructed in the principles of the foregoing sections of the drill. They form the basis of all military movements.

S. 15. *The Quick Step.*

The cadence of the slow pace having become perfectly habitual to the recruits, they are now to be taught to march a *quick* time, which is 108 steps in a minute, each of 30 inches, making 270 feet in a minute.

*Quick March.*

The command *Quick March* being given with a pause between them, the word *Quick* is to be considered as a caution, and the whole to remain perfectly steady. On the word *March*, the whole move off, conforming to the directions given in Sec. 5.

After the recruit is perfectly grounded in marching to the front in quick time, all the alterations of step, as above, for slow time, must be practised in the quick time.

This is the pace which will be applied generally to all movements by large as well as small bodies of troops; and therefore the recruit must be trained and thoroughly instructed in this essential part of his duty.

S. 16. *The Double March.*

The directions for the March, in the preceding section, apply in a great degree to this step, which is 150 steps in the minute, each of 36 inches, making 450 feet in a minute.

*Double March.*

On the words *Double March*, the whole step off together with the left feet; keeping the heads erect, and the shoulders square to the front; the knees are a little bent; the body is more advanced than in the other marches; the arms hang with ease down the outside of

the thigh. The instructor will be careful to habituate the recruit to the full pace of 36 inches, otherwise he will get into the habit of a short trot, which would defeat the obvious advantages of this degree of march.

*Halt.* As directed in Section 7.

The word *March*, given singly, at all times denotes that *slow time* is to be taken; when the *Quick*, or *Double March*, is meant, the words *Quick*, or *Double*, as a caution, will precede the word *March*.

The great advantage attending the constant use of the plummet must be obvious; and the several lengths swinging the times of the different marches in a minute, are as follows:

		In. Hun.
Slow time .....	75 steps in the minute	24, 96
Quick time.....	108 .....	12, 03
Double march.....	150 .....	6, 26

A musket-ball suspended by a string which is not subject to stretch, and on which are marked the different required lengths, will answer the above purpose, may be easily acquired, and should be frequently compared with an accurate standard in the adjutant's possession. The length of the plummet is to be measured from the point of suspension to the centre of the ball.

#### SINGLE RANK AT CLOSE ORDER.

Six or eight recruits will now be formed in rank at close files, having a steady well-drilled soldier on their flank to lead, and will then be carefully instructed in the *touch*, which in close order constitutes the principal guide and regulator in marching. Each man, when properly in line, should feel his right or left hand man (towards the point of direction) at the thick part of the arm immediately below the elbow, which must continue turned in and close to the side. The fingers



are kept straight, the thumb close to the fore-finger, the thumb and fore-finger in a small degree turned out, (in order to keep the elbows close,) the edge of the hand very slightly touching the thigh, and a little behind the seam of the trowsers. The touch must be light, and crowding carefully avoided.

### S. 17. *Dressing when halted.*

*Dress.*

Dressing is to be taught equally by the left as by the right. On the word *Dress*, each individual will cast his eyes to the point to which he is ordered to dress, with a slight turn of the head, but preserving the shoulders and body square to their front. The whole person of the man must move as may be necessary, and bending backward or forward is not to be permitted. He must take short quick steps, thereby gradually and exactly to gain his position, and on no account be suffered to attempt it by any sudden or violent alteration, which must infallibly derange whatever is beyond him. The faces of the men, and not their breasts or feet, are the line of dressing. Each man is to be able just to distinguish the lower part of the face of the second man beyond him.

In dressing, the eyes of the men are always turned to the officer who gives the word *Dress*; and who is posted at the point by which the body halts; and who from that point corrects his men, on a point at or beyond his opposite flank.

The faults to be avoided, and generally committed by the soldier in dressing, are, passing the line; the head too forward, and body kept back; the shoulders not square; the head turned too much.

With a view to establish more exactly the principles on which all dressing depends, the following instructions in the drill of recruits will be observed.

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*By the Right (or left), forward Dress.*

{ The right-hand man will be moved up a pace and a quarter (or half), and another soldier, as a second point, four paces to his right, while the left-hand man, or any other person, serves as a corresponding point for the instructor, upon the left. The instructor will then give the word, *No. 2, By the Right forward dress*, when the second recruit will take a pace to the front with the left foot, and shuffle up into line with the two points on his right, taking up his touch and dressing at the same time ; the instructor, standing clear to the right of the two points, when he sees that the recruit is properly dressed, and the touch perfect, gives the word *Eyes front*, that heads may be replaced and remain square to the front.

*Eyes front.*

*By the Right (or left) backward Dress.*

{ When every recruit individually has practised and is perfect in his dressing up, both by right and left forward, he must be taught to dress back by the right and left in the same manner.

The instructor will then cause two or three recruits to dress up and back together, taking care that the touch is always preserved, and afterwards the whole squad together.

No rank, or body, ought ever to be dressed, without the person on its flank appointed to dress it, determining, or at least supposing a line, on which the rank, or body, is to be formed, and for that purpose taking as his object the distant flank man, or a point beyond such flank, or a man thrown out on purpose : dressing must then be made gradually, and progressively, from the fixed point, towards the flank one ; and each man successively, but quickly, must be brought up into the true line, so as to become a new point, from whence the person directing proceeds in the correction of the others ; and he himself, when so directing, must take care that his person, or his eyes at least, be in the true line which he is then giving.

RECRUIT—*Without Arms.*S. 18. *File Marching.*

To the —  
face.

The recruits must first *face*, and then be instructed to cover each other exactly in file, so that the head of the man immediately before may conceal the heads of all the others in his front. The strictest observance of all the rules for marching is particularly necessary in marching by files, which is first to be taught at the *slow time*, and afterwards in *quick time*.

*March.*

On the word *March*, the whole are immediately to step off together, gaining at the very first step 30 inches, and so continuing each step without increasing the distance betwixt each recruit, every man locking or placing his advanced foot on the ground, before the spot from whence his preceding man had taken up his. No looking down, nor leaning backward, is to be suffered, on any pretence whatever. The leader is to be directed to march straight forward on some distant objects given him for that purpose, and the recruits made to cover one another during the march, with the most scrupulous exactness:—great attention must be paid to prevent them from opening out and losing their compact formation.

S. 19. *Wheeling of a Single Rank, in Slow Time, from the Halt.*

*Right Wheel.*

*March.*

At the word, *Right Wheel*, the man on the right of the rank faces to the right; on the word *March*, they step off together, the whole turning their eyes to the left (the wheeling or outward flank), except the man on the left of the rank, who looks inwards, and, during the wheel, becomes a kind of base line for the

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others to conform to, and maintain the uniformity of front. The outward wheeling man steps the usual pace of 30 inches, the whole observe the same time, but each man shortening his step in proportion as he is nearer to the standing flank on which the wheel is made. During the wheel, the whole remain closed to the standing flank; that is, they touch, without incommoding their neighbour; they must not stoop forward, but remain upright; opening out from the standing flank is to be avoided; closing in upon it, during the wheel, is to be resisted. On the word, *Halt, Dress*, each man halts immediately, without pressing forward. The dressing completed, the squad receives the command *Eyes front*.

*Halt, Dress.*

*Eyes front.*

When the recruits are able to perform the wheel with accuracy in the *slow time*, they must be practised in *quick time*.

Nothing will tend sooner to enable the recruit to acquire the proper length of step, according to his distance from the pivot, than continuing the wheel without halting for several revolutions of the circle, and also giving the word *Halt, Dress*, at instants not expected, and when only a 6th, 8th, or any smaller proportion of the circle is completed.

S. 20. *Wheeling backwards, a single Rank.*

*On the Right,  
backwards  
Wheel.  
Quick March.*

At the words *On the right, backwards Wheel*, the man on the right of the rank faces to his left. At the word *Quick March*, the whole step backward in quick time, dressing by the outward wheeling man; those nearest the pivot man making their steps extremely small, and those towards the wheeling man increasing them as they are placed nearer to him. The recruit in this wheel must not bend forward, nor be suffered to look down; but, by casting his eyes to the wheeling flank,

*Halt.*

preserve the dressing of the rank. On the word *Halt*, the whole remain perfectly steady, still looking to the wheeling flank till they receive the word *Dress*.

*Dress.*

The recruits should be first practised to wheel backwards at the slow step; and at all times it will be necessary to prevent them from hurrying the pace; an error soldiers are very liable to fall into, particularly in wheeling backwards.

S. 21. *Changing the Direction by the Wheel of a single Rank on a moveable Pivot.*

*Right (or Left)*  
*Shoulders forward.*

When the rank is marching to the front, and is ordered to change its direction to either flank, it receives the word *Right (or Left) Shoulders forward*; upon which the outward file of the named flank continues to step out at the full pace, and the wheel is performed (according to the principle explained in Section 20) upon the inner file of the other flank, which brings the shoulder gradually round,—and gaining ground sufficient to circle round the wheeling point (where such is given), marks time, until it receives the word *Forward*; but the wheel on the moveable pivot is always made at the same time at which the body may be moving. The commander gives the word *Forward*, when he sees that the rank has gained the front on which he intends it to move in a perpendicular direction.

*Forward.*

S. 23. *Diagonal March.*

*Right (or left)*  
*half face.*

*March.*

This march will be commenced from the halt, by giving the command *Right (or left) half face*, as described in Sect. 4, and on the word *March*, the men move on the diagonal lines upon which they are individually placed



*Halt, Front.*

*Right (or left) half turn.*

*Front turn.*

in echellon. Upon the command, *Halt, Front*, the original front is resumed. When the squad is marching to the front and it is desired to take an oblique direction, the word *Right (or left) half turn* is given, and the men move as above described,—and when it is intended to move to the original front without halting, the word *Front turn* is given, when each man will turn his body to the front and move forwards without checking the pace.

When the movement is performed to the left, the reverse of the foregoing instructions will take place.

During the diagonal march the leading flank will be the pivot for the time being; for instance, when a squad or company is moving by the right half turn, the right-hand man must pay particular attention to the length of pace, and to move perpendicular to the line he took up when he made his half turn, as the accuracy of his movement may assist very much in preserving the division in its proper position. The other files must be careful that their right arms do not get beyond the centre of the men's backs who precede them in echellon; and if they keep this position, their right feet will just clear the left of the preceding file.

# RECRUIT.

## WITH ARMS.

### S. 24. *Position of the Soldier.*

WHEN the firelock is shouldered, the person of the soldier remains in the position described under the head of *Close Order*, except that the wrist of the left hand is turned a little out, the better to embrace the butt. The firelock is placed in the hand, with the two first joints of the fingers grasping the inside of the butt, the thumb alone to appear in front. The piece must be carried at the full length of the arm, the butt a little forward, the fore part nearly even with that of the thigh; the hind part of it lightly touching the thigh, when stationary, without being in the least degree affected by it when in motion. The firelock will rest upon the hollow of the shoulder, and be held firm and steady.

### S. 25. *Different Motions of the Firelock.*

The following motions of the firelock will be taught and practised as here set down, until each recruit is perfect in them; they being necessary for the ease of the soldier in the course of exercise.

As mentioned in the Manual Exercise.	{	Supporting arms.
		Sloping arms.
		Carrying arms.
		Ordering arms.
		Standing at ease.
		Attention.
		Shouldering from the order.

The recruit must be accustomed to *carry* his arms for a considerable time together; it is most essential he should do so, and not be allowed to *support* or *slope* them so often as is practised, under the idea that long *carrying* them is a position of too much constraint.

A company or battalion is never to come to the HALT, or FORM IN LINE, or to DRESS, (which are situations where the greatest accuracy of front is required,) but with *carried arms*. When troops are in motion, arms may be sloped by word of command ; and it must here be observed, that when this is the case, the touch to the firelock arm must be kept by the elbow. It is to be understood, as a general rule, that in the double march, as the men make the first step, they slope arms, without any separate word of command ; on being halted, arms are instantly carried in the same manner.

S. 26. *Attention in forming the Squad.*

When the SQUAD or division (consisting of from six to eight files) *falls in*, each man, with carried arms, will take his place in his rank, beginning from the flank to which he is ordered to form ; he will dress himself in line by the rule already given, assume the ordered position of a soldier, and stand perfectly steady. Attention must be paid that the files are correctly closed ; that the men in the rear rank cover well, looking their file leaders in the middle of the neck ; that the rear rank has its proper distance of one pace (30 inches) from the front rank, and that both ranks are equally well dressed.

S. 27. *Open Order.*

*Rear Rank,  
take Open  
Order.*

*March.*

The recruits being formed in two ranks, at close order, on the word *Rear Rank*, take *Open Order*, the flank men on the right and left of the rear rank step briskly back one pace, face to their right, and stand covered, to mark the ground on which the rear rank is to halt, and dress at open order ; every other individual remains ready to move. On the word *March*, the dressers front, and the rear rank steps back one pace, dressing by the right.

RECRUIT—*With Arms.*S. 28. *Close Order.*

*Rear Rank,  
take Close  
Order.  
March.*

{ On the word *Rear Rank*, take *Close Order*, the whole remain perfectly steady ; at the word *March*, the rank closes within one pace.

S. 29. *Manual Exercise.*

According to Regulation.

S. 30. *Platoon Exercise.*

According to Regulation.

S. 31. *Firings.*

When the recruits have acquired the management of their arms, and are perfect in the motions of the manual and platoon exercises, they will be instructed at closed ranks in firing—

Direct to their front and both ranks kneeling.  
By files.

S. 32. *Marching to the Front and Rear.*

*Caution.  
March.*

{ The squad, or division, is to be particularly well dressed : files correct ; arms carried ; the rear rank covering exactly, and each individual to have his just attitude and position before the squad is ordered to move. The march will be made by the right or left flank, and a proper trained man will therefore conduct it. The word *Squad*, or *Division*, to be given as a caution ; upon which the rear rank will on all occasions lock up ; and at the word *March*, each man steps forward *full pace*. The recruit must not turn his head or eyes to the flank by which he is marching, as a turning of the shoulders would

*Halt.*

*Halt,  
March.*

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undoubtedly follow. His elbows must be kept steady, his proper touch maintained, and his whole movement, both as to cadence and length of pace, must be regulated in conformity with that of the man next to him, towards his pivot flank ; and without reference to the man upon his reverse flank, whose business again it is to conform to him. On the word *Halt*, the rear rank will make a short pace, so as to resume its distance of one pace from the front rank.

*Halt.*

*Halt, front,  
March.*

{ Turning to the right or left, or about, in march, is not to be at first practised ; but the squad is to *Halt, frent*, by command, and then *March*.

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heeling.

On many occasions, where a body, great or small, after a movement to the rear or in file, is immediately to resume its proper front, instead of the words to halt, and face about, the words *halt, front*, with a slight pause between them, will be given, when it is instantly to face to its proper front in line. It is after fronting, that the dressing, if necessary, is ordered to take place.

*Rear.*

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To march straight forward is of the utmost consequence, and he who commands at the drill will take the greatest pains to make his squad perfect in this essential object ;—for this purpose he will often place himself behind the flank file by which the squad is to move in marching, and take a point, or object, exactly in front of that file, and another in its rear ; he will then command *March*, and, remaining in his place, he will direct the advance of the squad, by keeping the flank file always in a line with these objects. Great care must be taken to prevent the leaning back of the soldier, and the bringing forward, or falling back of a shoulder, as they are faults which, if not instantly rectified, will create confusion in a line, where one man, by bringing forward a shoulder, may change the direction of the march, and oblige the wing of a battalion to run in order to keep dressed.



In short it is impossible to labour too much at making the soldier move straight forward, keeping always the same front as when he commenced his march. This is effected by moving solely from the haunches, keeping the body steady, the shoulders square, and the head to the front; and it will be attained without difficulty, by a strict attention to the rules given for marching, and a careful observance of an equal length of step, and an equal cadence, or time of march. In all of which he must be guided by the correct touch to the pivot flank.

The recruit must be practised in changing the pace, without halting, from *slow to quick and double*, and from *quick to slow time*; as well as from *quick to double*, and from *double to quick time*: but never from *double to slow time*, without a previous halt.

*Right Turn.*

*Left Turn.*

Turning on the march, in order to continue it, is necessary when companies, or their divisions, are moving in file, and that, without halting, it is eligible to make them move on in front; or when moving in front, it is proper without halting to make them move on in file.

*Right About,  
turn.*

*Left About,  
turn.*

This movement is applicable to companies, whereby the front is changed on the march without halting. On the word *Turn*, each individual soldier, without changing step, or cadence, come to the right or left about on his own ground, and in his own person performing the movement in the time prescribed for three distinct paces, then marking time till he receives the word *Forward*, when he resumes the full pace to the front.

*Forward.*

Strong taps of the drum, regulated by the plummet, will be given immediately *before the word March*, to imprint the required measure on the mind of the recruit; but the words *left, right*, are never to be used.

S. 33. *Open and Close Order, on the March.*

*Rear Rank,  
take Open  
Order.*

The squad, when moving to the front in slow time, receives the word *Rear Rank, take Open Order*; on which the front rank continues its march, without altering the pace, and the rear rank marks the time, one pace, and steps off at the second step.

*Rear Rank,  
take Close  
Order.*

On the word *Rear Rank, take Close Order*, the rear rank steps nimbly up to close order, and instantly resumes the pace at which the front rank has continued to march.

S. 34. *March in File to a Flank.*

The accuracy of the march in file is so essential in all counter-marches, file movements, and all deployments from close column, that the recruit cannot be too much exercised in it.

*To the — face,  
March.*

After *facing*, and at the word *March*, the whole squad steps off at the same instant, each replacing, or rather overstepping, the foot of the man before him; that is, the right foot of the second man comes within the left foot of the first, and thus of every one, more or less overlapping that of his preceding man. The front rank will march straight along the given line: each soldier of that rank must look along the necks of those before him, and never to right or left, otherwise the waving of the march will take place, and, of course, the loss and extension of the line and distance, whenever the body returns to its proper front. The men of the rear rank must regulate themselves by their leaders of the front rank, and always dress in their file. Although file marching is in general made in quick time, yet it must also be practised and made in slow time. The same position of feet, as above, takes place in all marching in front, where the rear rank is closed, and locked up.

The instructor must take care that every man takes at once his full length of pace at the word *March*.

### S. 35. *Wheeling in File.*

*Squad.*

*Right wheel.*

*Left wheel.*

The squad, when marching in file, must be accustomed to wheel its head to either flank; each file following successively, without losing or increasing distance. On this occasion, each file makes its separate wheel on a pivot moveable in a very small degree, but without altering its time of march. The front rank men, whether they are pivot men or not, must keep up to their distance, and the wheeling men must take a very extended step, and lose no time in moving on.

The head of a company marching in file must change direction in the same manner on the moveable pivot, by gradually gaining the new from the old direction, and thereby avoiding the sudden stop that otherwise would take place.

### S. 36. *Wheeling forward from the Halt.*

*Right Wheel.*

*Quick March.*

*Halt.*

The directions already given for the wheeling of a single rank (vide Sect. 19) are to be strictly attended to in this wheel of the squad. On the word *Right (or left) Wheel*, the rear rank, if at one pace distance, locks up. At the word *Quick March*, the whole stop together in the quick time, and the rear rank, during the wheel, inclines so as to cover the proper front rank men. At the word *Halt*, the whole remain perfectly steady.

### S. 37. *Wheeling backward.*

The squad must be practised in wheeling backward in quick time. In this wheel, the ranks may preserve the distance of

one pace from each other. Great attention should be paid, to prevent the recruits from fixing their eyes on the ground, (Vide Sect. 20.)

S. 38. *Wheeling on a halted and moveable Pivot.*

The directions for wheeling on a *halted*, and on a *moveable* pivot, have already been given, in Sects. 19 and 21. The squad should now be practised in both, until the recruits are thoroughly confirmed in those movements.

S. 39. *Stepping out,—Stepping short,—Marking Time,—Changing Feet,—The Side Step,—Stepping back,—The Oblique Step,—The Diagonal March.*

The squad must likewise be practised in *stepping out, stepping short, marking time, changing feet, the side step, stepping back, the oblique step, and the diagonal march*, the instructions for which have been fully detailed in the foregoing Sections.

N. B. In closing by the side step, the touch will be kept to the closing flank.

It cannot be too strongly inculcated, that every just movement and manœuvre depends upon the correct *equality* of *march*, established and practised by all the troops of the same army. When this is not attended to, disunion and confusion must follow, on the junction of several battalions, although, when taken separately, each may be well trained. It is in the original instruction of the recruit, and squad, that this great point is to be attained. The *time* and *length* of step are prescribed: the *time* is infallibly ascertained by the frequent corrections of the *plummet*, which, when so applied, will soon give to each man the habitual measure so much desired; and the *length* of step is acquired by repeated practice and the constant use of the pace stick. When a squad marches by files, by threes, or by fours, a man should be placed upon the flank of the leading files, to whose step the pace stick can be conveniently applied to correct the length of step of the whole.

In closing the elementary part of the soldier's instruction, it cannot be too strongly stated, that where the task of the drill serjeant ends, there the task of the company's officers and non-commissioned officers commences. The recruit has indeed been taught the rudiments of his profession in the drill squad, but it is only in the ranks of his company that the lessons he has received can be so applied and rigidly enforced, as to ensure that the acquired positions and movements of the soldier shall become the natural habit of the man. Under the eye of thoroughly-instructed superiors, who will give their scrupulous attention to the object here insisted on, the transition, from the recruit to the perfect soldier, will not be very tedious, when it will be awkward for a man so trained to do wrong; and his drill may then be said to be over for life. In order, however, to arrive at this great end of all military training, no slovenly habits must be suffered to creep in at private parades. The serjeant in inspecting his section, and the corporal in marching his relief, must exact as much attention and precision from those under him, as the drill serjeant invariably requires from his squad. By practice, what was at first constrained will become natural and easy. The soldier thus trained, whether under the eye of the reviewing general or the fire of an enemy, will perform his part with facility and correctness.

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## PART II.

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### OF THE COMPANY.

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#### S. 1. *Formation of the Company.*

THE Recruit being thoroughly grounded in all the preceding parts of the drill, is now to be instructed in the movements of the company, as a more immediate preparation for his joining the battalion; for this purpose from 10 to 20 files are to be assembled, formed, and told off, in the following manner, as a company in the battalion.

The company FALLS IN at close order, with shouldered arms; the files lightly touching, but without crowding; each man will then occupy a space of about 21 inches. The commander of the company takes post on the right of the front rank, covered by a serjeant in the rear rank. The other serjeants will form a third, or supernumerary rank, three paces from the rear rank.

When a company is thus singly formed with its officers, the captain is on the right, and the other officers in the rear, as also the drummer or pioneer in a third rank, at three paces distance. In this formation companies are to assemble on their private parades, being sized from flanks to centre.

The company will be told off in sub-divisions, and four sections. If four officers are present, the captain, when the company is in column of sections, takes the leading section, the next in seniority the third section, the third in rank the fourth section, and the junior officer the second. The covering serjeant will cover the second file from the pivot of the leading section. When there are but three officers, the covering serjeant will take the second section from the head of the column. The company will also be told off by threes from the right, numbered 1, 2, 3.

Should there be a blank file in telling off the company in line, it will invariably be the fourth file from the left.



When thus formed, the company will be practised in

Opening, and Closing of	}	Ranks. (Sect. 27 and 28, Recruit with Arms.)	}	by the right and left ;
Dressing				

and be exercised in the several motions of the firelock.

*Close Order* is the chief and primary order in which the battalion and its parts at all times assemble and form. *Open Order* is only regarded as an exception from it, and occasionally used in situations of parade and show. In close order, the rear rank is closed up to within one pace, the length of which is to be taken from the heels of one rank to the heels of the other rank. In open order, they are two paces distant from each other ; when for inspection, three paces.

In order to distinguish the words of command given by the instructor of the drill (who represents the commander of the battalion) from those given by the commander of the company, or its divisions, the commands of the former are in CAPITAL letters, those of the latter in *Italic*.

### S. 2. *Marching to the Front.*

BY THE RIGHT  
(OR LEFT),  
MARCH, *or*  
QUICK MARCH.

1. In the drill of the company, the person instructing must always consider it as a company in battalion, and regulate all its movements upon that principle ; he will therefore, before he puts it in motion to front or rear, indicate which flank is to direct, by giving the word BY THE RIGHT, LEFT, OR CENTRE, MARCH, on which eyes will be directed full to the front, and the touch preserved to the named flank, or to the centre, as required. Should the right be the directing flank, the commander of the company himself will fix on objects to march upon in a line truly perpendicular to the front of the company ; and when the left flank is ordered to direct, he and his covering serjeant will shift by

the rear to the left of the front rank, and take such objects to march upon. The conductor of the company, before the word MARCH is given, will remark some distinct object on the ground, in his own front, and perpendicular to the directing flank : he will then observe some nearer and intermediate point in the same line, such as a stone, tuft of grass, &c.: he will move upon them with accuracy, as he approaches the nearest of those points, he must, from time to time, choose fresh ones in the original direction, which he will by this means preserve, never having fewer than two such points to move upon.

2. As the MARCH of every body, except in the case of inclining, is made on lines perpendicular to its front, each individual composing that body must remain perfectly square to the given line ; otherwise he will naturally and insensibly move in a direction perpendicular to his own person, and thereby open out, or close in, according to the manner in which he is turned from the true point of his march. If the distortion of a single man operates in this manner, and all turnings of the head do so distort him, it may be easily imagined what that of several will occasion, each of whom is marching on a different front, and whose lines of direction are crossing each other.

The company, during its march in line, will occasionally be ordered to

<i>Step out</i> .....	vide Sect.	8	} Recruit without Arms.
<i>Mark Time</i> .....	_____	10	
<i>Step short</i> .....	_____	9	
<i>Open and close Ranks</i> .....	_____	33	
<i>Oblique</i> .....	_____	22	
<i>Diagonal March</i> .....	_____	23	

### S. 3. *The Side Step.*

The *side* or *closing step* must also be frequently practised ; it is very necessary and useful on many occasions, when

halted, and when a very small distance is to be moved to either flank.

TO THE RIGHT  
OR LEFT,  
CLOSE.

QUICK MARCH.

HALT.

When the whole company is to close to a flank, if supposed to be a division of a column, its commander remains in his place upon the flank, and closes with his company; but if the company is to be considered as the division of a line, and no stated number of paces is mentioned, its commander will in that case step nimbly forward on the caution TO THE RIGHT (OR LEFT,) CLOSE, and place himself three paces in front of that flank which is supposed the inner one, or that which is nearest to the centre of the line, in order that he may be prepared to halt his company at the proper time, as well as to take a general superintendence of its movement.

At the word QUICK MARCH, the men step off together.

On the word HALT being given, the officer instantly resumes his place in the line by the rear.

#### S. 4. *The Back Step.*

STEP BACK—  
MARCH.

The company must be accustomed from the halt, at the word STEP BACK—MARCH, to step back any ordered number of paces.

#### S. 5. *To form Four Deep.*

FORM FOUR  
DEEP.  
MARCH.

1. The company will be told off from the right by alternate files right and left; and when it is intended to form four deep, preserving the same front, the word FORM FOUR DEEP will be given, upon which the rear rank will step back one pace, and on the word MARCH, the left files will double behind the right files, by taking one pace to the rear with the left feet, and one pace to the right with the right feet, which form four deep, leaving the intervals which the left files had quitted.

## COMPANY.

V

REAR,  
FORM FOUR  
DEEP.  
MARCH.

2. *When four deep is to be formed to the rear.* On the same caution the rear rank will step back as before, and on the word **MARCH**, the whole go to the right about, and the left files will then double as before, in the *proper* rear of the right files.

RIGHT,  
FORM FOUR  
DEEP.  
MARCH

3. *When ground is to be taken to the right in the formation of four deep.* On the caution the rear rank steps back as before, and on the word **MARCH**, the whole face to the right, and the left files, at the same instant, form

*Erratum*—in Part II—page v, last line of Section 4, for  
“pace to the right with the right foot,” read  
“pace to the *rear* with the right foot.”

[pace to the right with the right feet.

In all these formations two deep is reformed from each of them by the word *Front*, upon which the files move up to their respective intervals into line, the rear rank immediately closing on the front rank: the word *Halt* will precede the word *Front* if the company has been in movement.

In moving to a flank, file marching may be adopted, if necessary, by the files leading out in their proper order upon the word **FORM TWO DEEP**; and, at the word **RE-FORM FOUR DEEP**, resuming their former places.

### S. 6. *File Marching.*

LEFT FACE.

In marching by files, the commander of the company will lead on the inward flank of the front rank, his covering serjeant leading the front rank; therefore when the movement is by the left, on the word **TO THE LEFT FACE**, he will instantly shift to the left flank of the company by the front, and his covering ser-

halted, and when a very small distance is to be moved to either flank.

TO THE RIGHT  
OR LEFT,  
CLOSE.

{ When the whole company is to close to a flank, if supposed to be a division of a column, its commander remains in his place upon the flank, and closes with his company ; but if the company is to be considered as the division of a line, and no stated number of paces is mentioned, its commander will in that case step nimbly forward on the caution TO THE RIGHT (OR LEFT,) CLOSE. and place himself

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MARCH.

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DEEP.  
MARCH.

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## COMPANY.

V

REAR,  
FORM FOUR  
DEEP.  
MARCH.

RIGHT,  
FORM FOUR  
DEEP.  
MARCH.

LEFT,  
FORM FOUR  
DEEP.  
MARCH.

2. When four deep is to be formed to the rear. On the same caution the rear rank will step back as before, and on the word MARCH, the whole go to the right about, and the left files will then double as before, in the proper rear of the right files.

3. When ground is to be taken to the right in the formation of four deep. On the caution the rear rank steps back as before, and on the word MARCH, the whole face to the right, and the left files, at the same instant, form on the right of the right files, taking one pace to the right with the right feet, and one pace to the front with the left feet.

4. When ground is to be taken to the left. The rear rank steps back as before, and on the word MARCH, the whole face to the left, and the left files, at the same instant, form on the left of the right files, by taking one pace to the left with the left feet, and one pace to the right with the right feet.

In all these formations two deep is reformed from each of them by the word *Front*, upon which the files move up to their respective intervals into line, the rear rank immediately closing on the front rank: the word *Halt* will precede the word *Front* if the company has been in movement.

In moving to a flank, file marching may be adopted, if necessary, by the files leading out in their proper order upon the word FORM TWO DEEP; and, at the word RE-FORM FOUR DEEP, resuming their former places.

### S. 6. File Marching.

LEFT FACE.

In marching by files, the commander of the company will lead on the inward flank of the front rank, his covering serjeant leading the front rank; therefore when the movement is by the left, on the word TO THE LEFT FACE, he will instantly shift to the left flank of the company by the front, and his covering ser-



QUICK MARCH.

*Halt, Front.*

jeant by the rear ; at the word QUICK MARCH, the whole step off together (vide Sect. 18, Recruit without Arms) ; and on the word *Halt, Front*, the leader and his serjeant will return to their posts on the right by the rear.

The company will also be taught to—*advance in double files from the centre*, receiving from the instructor of the drill the command by SUB-DIVISIONS INWARDS FACE, upon which the two centre files disengage by the side step, bringing the shoulders forward at the words QUICK MARCH, and lead straight to the front, the front and rear rank men in line.

The officer and his covering serjeant will lead, in their relative situations as above prescribed, the left or right centre file of the pivot sub-division.

On the command FRONT FORM COMPANY, the leading files mark time and close in, their rear rank men falling to the rear ; the remainder turn their bodies a whole face outwards, and wheel inwards, looking to the outward flank, and feeling to the centre.

As soon as the quarter circle is completed, the word *Forward* is given, if the march is to be continued.

If the company from double files is to be formed to a flank (suppose the right), the instructor gives the caution TO THE RIGHT, FORM COMPANY, when the commander of the company will give the command, *Right Sub-Division, Halt, Front*. The remainder of the company march on in file, and form on the left of the halted sub-division in succession, halting as they come into line.

When the advance in double files from the centre is made on the march, the command is *Sub-divisions inwards turn, Right and Left wheel*, and the movement proceeds as above directed.

### S. 7. *Wheeling from a Halt.*

RIGHT WHEEL.  
QUICK MARCH.

In wheeling either forward or backward from a halt, the commander of the company, on the word RIGHT OR LEFT WHEEL, moves out, and places himself one pace in front of

*Halt, Dress.*

the centre of his company : during the wheel, he turns towards his men, and inclines towards that flank which has been named as the directing, or pivot one, giving the word *Halt, Dress*, when his wheeling man has just completed the required degree of wheel : he then squares his company, but without moving what was the standing flank, and takes his post on the directing flank.

S. 8. *Wheeling forward by Sub-divisions from Line.*

BY SUB-DIVISIONS, RIGHT WHEEL.

1. On the caution by SUB-DIVISIONS, RIGHT WHEEL, the commander of the company places himself one pace in front of the centre of the right sub-division, at the same time the men on the right of the front rank of each sub-division face to the right.

QUICK MARCH.

*Halt, Dress.*

At the word QUICK MARCH, each sub-division steps off in quick time, observing the directions given in Sect. 19 and 36, Part I. The commander of the company turning towards the men of the leading sub-division, the inclining to its left (the proper pivot flank), gives the word *Halt, Dress*, for both sub-divisions, as his wheeling man is taking the last step that finishes the wheel square ; and instantly posts himself on the left, the pivot flank. The covering serjeant, shifting by the rear to the proper pivot flank, assumes his place in column, one pace in rear of the second file from the pivot, the senior subaltern taking post on the pivot flank of the second sub-division ; the commander of the company always leading the first.

2. The company marching to the front may be wheeled into open column of sub-divisions on the moveable pivot, to either flank, *without* halting ; the instructor giving the word FORWARD, when the sub-divisions have wheeled square into column.

The *proper* pivot flank in column is that which, when wheeled up to, preserves the divisions of the line in the natural order, and to their proper front : the other is the *reserve* flank.

In column, divisions cover and dress to the proper pivot flank : to the left when the right is in front ; and to the right when the left is in front.

S. 9. *Wheeling backwards by Sub-divisions from Line.*

CAUTION.

The company will also break into open column of sub-divisions by wheeling backwards. —When the right is intended to be in front at the caution BY SUB-DIVISIONS ON THE LEFT, BACKWARD WHEEL, the commander of the company moves out briskly and places himself one pace in front of the centre of the right sub-division. The man on the left of the front rank of each sub-division at the same time faces to the right.

QUICK MARCH.

On the word QUICK MARCH, each sub-division wheels backward, as directed in Section 20 and 37, Part I. During the wheel, the commander of the company turns towards his men, inclining at the same time to the left, or pivot flank, and on completing the wheel gives the word *Halt, Dress*, to both divisions : he and his covering serjeant then place themselves in their proper stations, as directed in the last Section.

*Halt, Dress.*

S. 10. *Marching on an Aligement, in Open Column of Sub-division.*

The company having wheeled backwards, by sub-divisions from line, (as directed in the foregoing Section,) and a distant marked object in the prolongation of the two pivot flanks being taken ; the commander of the company, who is now on the pivot flank of

## MARCH.

the leading sub-division, immediately fixes on his intermediate points to march on. (Vide S. 2, Part II.) On the word MARCH, given by the instructor of the drill, both divisions step off at the same instant; the leader of the first division marching with the utmost steadiness and equality of pace on the points he has taken; and the commander of the second division preserving the leader of the first in the exact line with the distant object; at the same time he keeps the distance necessary for forming from the preceding division, which distance is to be taken from the front rank.—These objects must occupy the whole attention of the leaders of the two divisions.

S. 11. *Wheeling into Line from Open Column of Sub-divisions.*

## HALT.

LEFT WHEEL  
INTO LINE.

## QUICK MARCH.

1. The company being in open column of sub-divisions, marching on the alignment, receives the word HALT from the instructor of the drill; both divisions instantly halt, and the instructor sees that the leaders of the divisions are correct on the line in which they have moved; he then gives the word (supposing the right of the company to be in front) by sub-divisions LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE; on which the commander of the company goes to the centre of his sub-division, the two pivot men face to their left exactly square with the alignment, the rear rank men covering off, and a serjeant runs out and places himself in a line with them, so as to mark the precise point at which the right flank of the leading sub-division is to halt, when it shall have completed its wheel. At the word QUICK MARCH, the whole wheel up in quick time; during the wheel, the commander of the company, turning towards

*Halt, Dress.*

his men, inclines to the wheeling flank, and gives the word *Halt, Dress*, at the moment the wheel of the division is completed; the commander of the company, if necessary, corrects the internal dressing of the company on the serjeant and pivot men: this dressing must be quickly made, and, when done, the commander of the company gives the word *Eyes front*, and takes post in line, as directed in Sect. 1, Part. II.

*Eyes front.*

2. The company may be wheeled into line on the march on the moveable pivot, receiving from the instructor the command **SHOULDERS FORWARD**, then **FORWARD**, or **HALT, DRESS**, when the wheel is complete.

In all wheels of the division of a column that are to be made on a halted pivot in order to form line, the flank men of the front rank on the hand wheeled to is such pivot.

All wheelings by sub-divisions, or sections, from line into column, or from column into line, are performed on the word given by the commander of a battalion, when the whole of a battalion is at the same instant so to wheel; or on the word given by the commander of the company, when companies singly, or successively, so wheel; they are not to be repeated by the leaders of its divisions.

When the company is in open column of sub-divisions, it must be occasionally practised to wheel into line upon the reverse flank of the column; and in showing a front line also to that reverse flank by wheeling backwards on the regular pivots. On the caution to wheel into line by companies, pivot men face and raise their right arms from the elbow horizontally. On the word *Eyes front*, the hand resumes its usual position.

**S. 12. In open Column of Sub-divisions entering into a new Direction on a moveable Pivot.**

*Right Shoulders forward.*

The commander of the leading sub-division, when it arrives at the new direction, will give the word *Right* (or left) *Shoulders forward* (Vide Sect. 21, Recruit without

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RIGHT  
LEFT

*Forward.*

Arms), and when his sub-division has wheeled square to that direction he will give the word *Forward*. The leader of the second sub-division, when he arrives at the ground where the first began to change its direction, will give the same words, following the exact track, and always preserving his distance from the division in his front.

1. If the proper pivot flank is to be the wheeling one, each commander of a division gives his word *Shoulders Forward*, as he successively arrives at such a distance from the point on which he has moved, as that, at the completion of the wheel, his division may receive the word *Forward* when perpendicular to the new line, but with the given point, of course, behind the proper pivot; and that he also in his own person be on the new direction, prepared to give his word *Forward*, and to proceed.

2. The sub-divisions must take care that they continue their march correctly upon the point where the leading one wheeled, and that they do not shift to either flank, which, without much attention, they are apt to do.

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### S. 13. *Countermarching.*

The company, when it is to countermarch, must always be considered as a division of a battalion in column; the instructor of the drill will therefore, previous to his giving the caution to countermarch, signify whether the right or left is supposed to be in front, that the commander of the company, and his covering serjeant, may be placed on the pivot flank before such caution is given, as it is an invariable rule in the countermarch of the divisions of a column by files, that the facings be made from the flank, then the pivot one, to the one which is to become such.

#### *Countermarch by Files.*

RIGHT (OR  
LEFT) FACE.

1. On the word, RIGHT, OR LEFT, FACE, the company faces; the commander of it immediately takes one pace outwards, and faces inwards ready to halt his company; and his covering serjeant faces to the right about,



## QUICK MARCH.

*Halt, Front,  
Dress.*

and covers. At the word QUICK MARCH, the whole, except the commander and his covering serjeant, step off together, and the leading file, wheeling short round the front rank, proceeds, followed by the company in file, till it has reached the covering serjeant, who has remained immoveable ; when the commander instantly gives the words *Halt, Front, Dress*, squares, and closes his company on his serjeant, and then replaces him.

*Countermarch by Ranks.*

RIGHT AND LEFT  
FACE.

2. On the word FACE, whether the right or left is in front, the front rank faces to the right, the rear rank to the left ; commanders place themselves on the outward flank of their serjeants facing inwards, and the covering serjeants go to the right about.

RIGHT COUNTER-MARCH.  
QUICK MARCH.

*Halt, Front,  
Dress.*

The whole step off together, the two ranks severally wheeling in single file, till the pivot man of the front rank comes close to the covering serjeant ; they then receive the word *Halt, Front, Dress*, from the officer who replaces the serjeant.

All countermarches by files necessarily tend to an extension of the files ; unity of step is therefore absolutely indispensable, and the greatest care must be taken that the wheel of each file be made close, quick, and at an increased length of step of the wheeling man, so as not to retard or lengthen out the march of the whole.

Companies, or their divisions, when brought up in file to a new line, are not to stand in that position till the men cover each other minutely ; but the instant the leading man is at his point, they will receive the word *Halt, Front*, and in that situation close in and dress correctly.

S. 14. *Wheeling on the centre of the Company.*

The company must be accustomed to wheel upon its centre half backward, half forward, and to be pliable into every shape

which circumstances can require of it; but always in order, and by a decided command.

The words of Command are,

COMPANY,  
ON THE CENTRE

{	RIGHT.....	} WHEEL.
	LEFT.....	
	RIGHT ABOUT.....	
	LEFT ABOUT.....	

When the wheel is to the right, or right about, the right half company wheels backward, and the left forward. In this case the right-hand man of the left sub-division is the pivot man; he faces to his right, or right about, and the covering serjeant springs out and aligns himself with him, but to the flank which is to become the pivot. The reverse will take place when the wheel is to be made to the left, or to the left about. The left-hand man of the right sub-division is then the pivot man, who will face to his left, or left about; the covering serjeant aligns himself with him, as in the wheel to the right. On the word MARCH, the whole move off together in quick time, regulating by the two flank men, who, during the wheel, preserve themselves in a line with the centre of the company; as soon as the required degree of wheel is performed, the commander of the company gives the word *Halt, Dress*, and instantly squares it to that flank, on which he himself is to take post.

*Halt, Dress.*

#### S. 15. *Diagonal March.*

The instructor of the drill will have the diagonal march frequently practised, in company, and in sub-divisions: (vide S. 23, Recruit without Arms). He will see that the rear rank locks well up, and covers exactly; that the exact distances are preserved between the files: and that the pivots, or outward files, march in the direct line to which they have faced, the others conforming to them.

(Plate 1.)

S. 15. *Increasing and Diminishing the Front of an Open Column halted.**Increasing.*

Fig. 1.

FORM  
COMPANY.*Left Sub-division, Left Half Face ; Quick March.**Halt, Front, Dress up.*

The company standing in open column of sub-divisions (suppose the right in front) receives from the instructor of the drill the caution to FORM COMPANY ; upon which the covering serjeants will run out to mark the pivot flank. The commander of the company turning round instantly orders, *Left Sub-division, Left Half Face : Quick March* ; and the leading (or pivot) file will march straight on the covering serjeant. When the left sub-division has obliqued so as to gain the line of the right sub-division, the commander gives the word *Halt, Front, Dress up* ; and takes post on the left, the pivot flank of the company.

*Diminishing.*FORM SUB-  
DIVISIONS.

Fig. 2.

*Left Sub-division, Right about three-quarters Face, Quick March.**Halt, Front, Dress.*

On the cautionary command from the instructor of the drill to FORM SUB-DIVISIONS, the senior subaltern instantly falls back to mark the point where the left flank of the sub-division is to rest. The commander of the company advancing one step orders *Left Sub-divisions, Right about three-quarters Face, Quick March* ; and the leading file of the left sub-division marches in the diagonal direction, until the pivot file reaches the officer who has taken up its distance and covers ; and who, when it shall reach him, gives the words *Halt, Front, Dress*.

The commander remains on the left flank of the right sub-division, and the next officer on that of the left.

In increasing and diminishing the front of an open column halted, upon the usual caution, the rear-rank man of the pivot file of the reverse sub-division falls back and covers the third

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ext officer

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the third

Column of Companies (right in front) forming Column of Subdivisions from the Rear

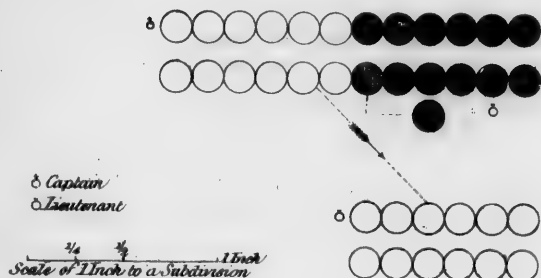


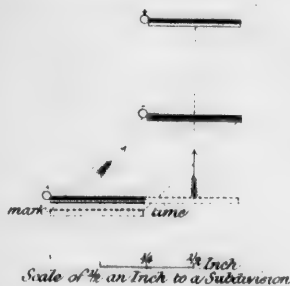
Fig 1.

*A Column of Subdivisions (right in front)  
forming Company from the halt.*



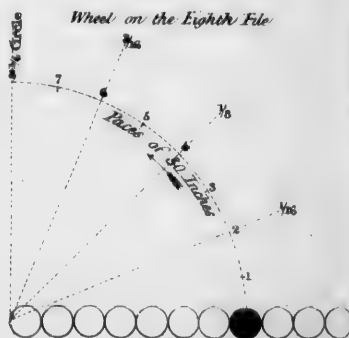
Fig 4.

Column of Companies (right in front) forming  
Column of Subdivisions on the March



**Fig 3**

*A Column of Subdivisions (right in front)  
forming Company on the March*



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S. 17

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file of his sub-division, in order to leave room for the flank of the other sub-division, resuming his place as soon as the flanks are clear.

It is to be observed as a general rule in diminishing the front of a column by the doubling of sub-divisions or sections, whether the column be halted or in motion, that the sub-division or section on the *reverse* flank is the one behind which the other sub-divisions or sections double. Thus, when the right is in front, the doubling will be in the rear of the right sub-division; and *vice versa* when the left is in front. And in increasing the front of a column, the rear sub-divisions, or sections, oblique to the hand the pivot flank is on; so that, when the right is in front, the obliquing will be to the left, and the reverse when the left is in front.

Plate 1.

S. 17. *Increasing and Diminishing the Front of an Open Column on the March.*

*Increasing.*

The company marching at quick time in open column of sub-divisions (suppose right in front), receives from the instructor of the drill the cautionary command, **FORM COMPANY**; the commander of the company instantly turning round, gives the word, *Left Sub-division, left half turn, Double*, and it instantly moves off at the *Double March*; and as soon as its inward flank is open, it receives the word *Front turn*, and when in line with the reverse sub-division, *Quick*, the commander taking post on the pivot flank, towards which he has been moving.

*Diminishing.*

When the instructor of the drill gives the caution to **FORM SUB-DIVISIONS**, the commander of the company, advancing one step, immediately orders, *Left Sub-division, mark time; right half turn*; and when it has doubled properly behind the right one, the senior

**FORM  
COMPANY.**

*Left Sub-division, Left half turn, Double.*

*Front turn.  
Quick.*

**FORM SUB-  
DIVISIONS.**

*Left Sub-division, mark time;  
Right half turn.*



subaltern gives the word, *Front turn*, placing himself on its pivot flank.

The same directions that apply to increasing or diminishing by sub-divisions, apply equally by sections.

If the column is moving in slow time, when its front is to be increased, the division moving up will do so in quick time; but when the column is marching in quick time, the rear sub-division will in that case move up in double time as directed.

S. 18. *The Company in Open Column of Sub-divisions to pass a short Defilé, by breaking off Files.*

BREAK OFF  
3 FILES.

*Three files,  
right turn, left  
wheel.*

*Two files, right  
turns.*

The company is supposed in open column of sub-divisions, with the right in front; when the leading division is arrived within a few paces of the defilé, it receives from the instructor of the drill an order to break off a certain number of files (suppose three). The commander of the leading division instantly gives the words *Three files on the left, right turn, left wheel*: the named files immediately turn to the right, and wheeling to the left follow in file in rear of the left flank of the sub-division. When the second sub-division comes to the spot where the first division contracted its front, it will receive the same word of command from its own leader, and will proceed in like manner.

Should it be required to diminish the front of the column one or two files more, the commander of the leading division will, as before, order the desired numbers of files to *turn*: on which those already in the rear will incline to the right, so as to cover the files now ordered to break off, and which turn to the right and wheel to the left in the manner already prescribed.

In this movement, the files in the rear of the sub-divisions must lock well up, so as not to impede the march of the succeeding division. The covering serjeant will cover his officer until all the files are again brought up.

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S. 19.

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FORW  
or Halt

*Three files to the front.*

As the defilé widens (or the instructor of the drill shall direct), the commander of the leading sub-division will order files to move up to the front, by giving the word, *One, two or three files to the front*; on which the named files turn to their front (the left), and lengthening their pace, march up, file by file, to the front of their sub-division, and immediately resume the march. Those files which are to continue in the rear will oblique to the left, lengthening also their step, till they cover, and are closed up to the right flank of their sub-division.

It is to be observed, that in passing a defilé, the rule is that the files break off from the pivot flank; but interruptions may in some cases present themselves, requiring that files be broken off from the reverse flank. The same instructions apply in both cases.

*S. 19. The Company Halted, or, on the March moves to a Flank, in Column of Sections, or of Sections of Threes.*

SECTIONS, OR  
THREES,  
RIGHT OR LEFT  
SHOULDERS  
FORWARD—  
*if halted,*  
QUICK MARCH,  
FORWARD.  
SECTIONS, OR  
THREES, ON  
THE RIGHT OR  
LEFT BACK-  
WARDS WHEEL.  
QUICK MARCH.  
*Halt, Dress.*  
RIGHT OR LEFT  
SHOULDERS  
FORWARD—  
FORWARD,  
*or Halt, Dress.*

The company from line will be practised in forming sections and sections of threes, both when halted and in motion, by the command, SECTIONS, OR THREES, RIGHT OR LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD—QUICK MARCH, FORWARD; and the only exception to this rule will be, when pivots are required to be accurately dressed, or when the alignment of the company is to be preserved: in this case the command will be, SECTIONS, OR THREES, ON THE RIGHT OR LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL, QUICK MARCH, *Halt, Dress.*

In re-forming company, the command will be RIGHT OR LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD—FORWARD, if the march is to be continued; otherwise, *Halt, Dress.*

When pivots are required to be accurately

RIGHT OR LEFT  
WHEEL INTO  
LINE,  
QUICK MARCH.  
*Halt, Dress.*

dressed, or when the alignment is to be preserved, the command will be, RIGHT, OR LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE, QUICK MARCH, *Halt, Dress.*

The word *Forward*, or *Halt*, must be given just as the outward men of threes are completing their third pace.

Should the telling off by threes leave either one or two files over, they will be placed on the right of the left section of threes, which is always to be complete. If there is one file over—on the word, **THREES, SHOULDERS FORWARD**, the front-rank man wheels up, and places himself in rear of the pivot flank of the section in front of him; his rear-rank man placing himself in the rear of its reverse flank, both men locking up; but if the odd file is a blank one, the reverse flank of the preceding section must necessarily remain uncovered. If there are two files over, they wheel as ordered, and form a section of themselves, covering the outward flanks of the section preceding them; but if one of these two files is a blank file, the three men will form a single rank, the two front-rank men covering the flanks of the preceding section, and the rear-rank man stepping out between them.

In forming threes from line to the right or to the left by the shoulders forward, the leading section must frequently be practised to wheel upon the centre man of the three, as they will often be required to do so, in disengaging to the rear when formed as a division of a line.

The company at any time may form **THREES** to a flank, after the telling off has been deranged, if the men are practised to do so rapidly in succession. The first three is formed at once; the fourth man in the front rank then sees that he is the pivot for the next three, and turns or faces into the new direction; the seventh file then follow, and so on to the reverse flank of the company: when on the march, the company may mark time until the threes are formed, when they receive the word **FORWARD**.

In changing the direction of a column of threes, the command will be the same as in file marching, *right wheel—left wheel*.

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S. 20.

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Should it be required to form company upon the leading three, the commander will order **FRONT FORM COMPANY**, upon which the leading three will mark time, the remainder will make a half turn to the proper hand, and moving up to their proper places in line will mark time, until the word **FORWARD** or **HALT** is given.

If from sections of threes it be required to form sub-divisions or sections, the commander will order **RIGHT** (or left) **TURN**, **RIGHT** (or left) **WHEEL**, and when in file, **FRONT FORM SUB-DIVISIONS** (or **SECTIONS**), upon which the leading file of sub-divisions (or sections) will mark time; the remainder turn their bodies a whole face to the proper hand, and wheel in sub-divisions or sections to the right or left as may be required. During these formations the company leader will move by the front to his proper station.

The company marching to a flank in threes will be practised to turn to the right and left, and to the right about, wheeling forward, afterwards, rear rank in front: the company may also be inverted by wheeling the threes forward on their reverse flank, as the inversion can at any moment be corrected.

**S. 20. Forming Company, Sub-divisions, Sections, or Sections of Threes from File Marching.**

**FRONT FORM  
COMPANY,  
SUB-DIVISIONS,  
OR SECTIONS.**

At this word of command, the leading file marks time, the remainder turn their bodies a whole face to the left and wheel to the right, looking to the outward flank and feeling inwards, (that is to say) if right in front, turn to the left, and if left in front, turn to the right,—the officer, if not already in his place, passing along the front to it during the wheel.

As soon as the quarter circle is complete, the word **FORWARD** is given, if the march is to be continued.

The company marching in file (suppose from the right) has only to halt and front to be formed to the left flank.

**ON THE LEAD-  
ING FILE TO THE  
RIGHT FORM  
COMPANY.**

At this word of command, the front rank man of the leading file will turn to the right, take one pace to the front, and halt, the rear rank moving round and covering; the re-

mainder of the company form on the left of the right file, by files in succession.

ON THE LEAD-  
ING FILE TO THE  
RIGHT ABOUT,  
FORM  
COMPANY.

At this word the leading file wheels to the right about, taking one pace to the front after wheeling; the remainder of the company march on in file, wheeling round the halted file, and forming on its left by files in succession, each file, as it comes into the line, taking up its dressing from the standing flank.

S. 21. *To form to either Flank, from Open Column of Sub-divisions.*

HALT, LEFT  
WHEEL INTO  
LINE.  
QUICK MARCH.

The company marching in open column of sub-divisions, to form to its left, receives the words, HALT, LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE, QUICK MARCH, &c., and proceeds as has already been shown in S. 11, Part II.

RIGHT FOR-  
WARD FORM  
COMPANY.

To form the company to its right flank, the instructor of the drill gives the cautionary word of command, TO THE RIGHT FORM COMPANY; on which the commanders of the several divisions shift to the right flank, and the commander of the leading sub-division instantly gives the word to his division, *Left Shoulders forward*. When it has wheeled square, he orders *Forward*; and having gained three paces, he gives the word *Halt, Dress*, and dresses it on the intended line of formation. The second sub-division must gradually incline to the left by the oblique step, in order to be able to march clear of the first, and when it is arrived at the left flank of the first, its commander, falling to the rear, gives the word, *Left Shoulders forward,—forward*; then *Halt, dress up*; on which the division moves up into the line with the one formed; and the commander of the company dresses it from the outward flank of the first formed sub-division, and resumes his proper place.

*Left Shoulders  
forward—  
forward.  
Halt, dress.*

*Left Shoulders  
forward.  
Halt, dress.*

S. 22.

SECT  
RIG

FORW

FORM  
PAN

FORW

FORM  
RALL  
SQUA

*S. 22. The Company moving to the Front, to gain Ground to a Flank, by a March in Echelon, by Sections.*

SECTIONS,  
RIGHT.

FORWARD.

FORM COM-  
PANY.

FORWARD.

The company, marching to the front, receives the word **SECTIONS RIGHT**; the right-hand men of the front rank of each section, turning in a small degree to their right, mark the time two paces, during which the sections are wheeling on their pivot men; at the third pace, and at the word *Forward*, the whole move on direct to the front that each section has now acquired; and the company continues its march in echelon.

On the word **FORM COMPANY**, the pivot men mark the time as before, turning back in a small degree to the left, the original front, and the sections instantly wheel backward into line: on the word **FORWARD**, the whole advance in line.

*S. 23. To form the Rallying Square.*

FORM THE  
RALLYING  
SQUARE.

1. The instructor of the drill having caused the company to disperse to a certain distance, will give the word **FORM THE RALLYING SQUARE**, at the same time placing himself facing the supposed enemy; the men hasten to the person so posted, fixing bayonets and ordering their arms as they reach him. The two first who join him form on his right and left, facing outwards. The three next place themselves in front of those posted, and three others to the rear facing to the rear, thus forming a square of three. The instructor will cause the next four men to take post at the several angles; and others as they come up will complete the different faces between these angles, which will form a square of five.

2. A square thus composed of twenty-four men (besides the person who is to rally) and formed two deep, may be augmented to a

square of *seven*, three deep, by four more men taking posts at the angles, and others coming up to complete the faces as before ; the square will then consist of forty-eight men, and may be augmented in the same manner to a square of nine, four deep, by the angles being occupied by four more men, and the faces filled up as before ; and the square will then be composed of eighty men.

THE SQUARE  
WILL MOVE  
TO THE  
FRONT, REAR,  
RIGHT, OR  
LEFT.  
INWARDS FACE.  
QUICK MARCH.

3. *When the square is to march.*—In order to move with the necessary regularity previously to putting the square in motion, the instructor will cause the faces to be dressed ; and after the caution, he will give the words INWARDS FACE, and it will face in the named direction, and step off accordingly at the word QUICK MARCH.

HALT.  
PREPARE TO  
RESIST  
CAVALRY.  
READY.

4. *To resist Cavalry.*—Upon the word HALT, the square will halt and face outwards, and when it is to PREPARE TO RESIST CAVALRY ;—upon the word READY, the front rank only (if the square is two or three deep will kneel ; if four deep, the two front ranks will kneel. If ordered to fire, the standing ranks only will commence an independent fire, bringing the firelock gradually up to the present.

*Reduce the  
Square.*

*Quick March.*

When the square is to be reduced, two non-commissioned officers will mark the alignment facing the supposed enemy. On the word *Quick March*, the men open out, and fall in, in their proper places.

In this manner small dispersed parties, from eight to eighty men, may be formed to resist an attack of cavalry in an open country, where from whatever cause, soldiers may have separated from the column of march.

When a company, or other small body in close files, requires to form to resist cavalry, it may be wheeled forward into column of sections, and closed to the front. When halted,

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the two rear sections face to the right about, and the two outward files of the second and third sections face to their right and left, so as to present a front in all directions. The men on the angles also face to their right and left.

In pursuance of the foregoing instructions, and on the principles they contain, every company of a battalion must be frequently exercised by its own officers, each superintending a rank, or an allotted part of the whole movement. On a space of 70 or 80 yards square, every movement and formation may be practised that is necessary to qualify it for the operations of the battalion.

The company must be frequently exercised on rough and broken, as well as on smooth and level ground, and as often with the rear rank in front as otherwise.

Great pains should be taken to accustom the men to remedy quickly, of their own accord, any derangement that may take place in the telling off of companies. For example, the officer will order the pivot files of sections to fall out, when the files next to them in their respective sections will become, as a matter of course, *without re-telling off*, the new pivots of the sections. Soldiers trained in this way are not liable to fall into confusion, whatever casualties may occur on service; and it is especially desirable that companies should be so exercised as to insure on all occasions, and under all circumstances, the ready wheel of sections, upon which all prompt formations against cavalry so very much depend.

Officers must be habituated to give their words of command with energy and precision. *Every officer*, on first joining a regiment, must be thoroughly drilled and exercised until he shall have a perfect knowledge of all the detail of drill required from a soldier. He cannot be considered capable of instructing the men under his command, nor be permitted to take the command of a company in the battalion, until he is master of all these points.

Squads of officers must be formed, and exercised by a field officer. They must be marched in all directions; and, in proportion to the number of files in a division, they must learn

accurately to judge the distances necessary for each, and to extend that knowledge to the front of greater bodies. They must acquire the habit of readily ascertaining, by the eye, perpendiculars of march, and the squareness of the wheel.

An officer ought to know the post which he should occupy in all changes of situation,—the commands which he should give,—and the general intention of a required movement. He should be master of the principles on which each formation is founded, and aware of the faults that may be committed, in order to avoid them himself, and to instruct others. These principles are in themselves so simple, that moderate reflection habit, and attention, will soon shew them to the eye, and fix them in the mind; and individuals, from time to time, when qualified, must be ordered to exercise the battalion, or its parts.

Officers must bear in mind, that the instruction laid down in the preceding sections cannot be completely established without joining theory to practice; and no officer can be deemed duly instructed, until he is capable of commanding and explaining the several parts of which the system is composed.

It is incumbent, therefore, on commanding officers of regiments, before any officer under their orders is dismissed drill, to take steps to ascertain, by due examination, that they fully comprehend the principles and spirit of all they have been taught.

The complete instruction of an officer enlarges with his situation, and at last takes in the whole circle of military science. From the variety of knowledge required of him, his exertion must be unremitting, to qualify himself for the progressive situations at which he may arrive.

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## THE MANUAL EXERCISE.

PERCUSSION ARMS require to be carefully handled in order to prevent the cock being loosened, by which its direct fall on the nipple would be rendered uncertain. They are, at all times, when unloaded, to be used with the cock down on the nipple, and Sentries may be permitted to carry their arms, when loaded, in the same manner, in order to secure the cap in its place; but, to avoid accidents, they are to be carried, on all other occasions, at *half-cock* after being loaded.

*Words of  
Command.*

}

*Explanation.*

1st.

*Secure Arms.*

1st. Bring the right hand briskly up and place it under the cock, the forefinger touching the back part of it, the thumb placed between the stock and barrel, and pointing to the muzzle, keeping the firelock steady.

2nd. Quit the butt with the left hand, and seize the firelock with it at the swell, bringing the elbow close down upon the lock, carefully avoiding to raise or lower the shoulder; the right hand kept fast in this motion, and the piece still upright.

3rd. Quit the right hand, giving the piece a cant with the forefingers, and bring it down to your right side, bringing the firelock down to the *secure*, under the left arm, the elbow thrown a little to the rear, the guard *just* visible, the thumb on the sling, the fingers grasping the barrel, and the hand rather below the hip-bone.

*N. B.* In marching when the cap is on, the cock will be brought up under the arm-pit, the sling resting on the arm; but at other times the firelock may be carried with the barrel downwards, the right hand grasping the piece between the loop and the swell, and the left, the right arm just below the elbow.

*2nd.*  
*Shoulder Arms.*

- 1st. Bring the firelock up to the perpendicular line, seizing it with the right hand under the cock, as the first motion of the *Secure*.
- 2nd. Quit the left hand, and strike the butt with the palm, grasping it at the same instant.
- 3rd. Quit the right hand, and bring it smartly down to the right side.

*3rd.*  
*Order Arms.*

- 1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand, the little finger as high as the shoulder, the elbow close to the body.
- 2nd. Bring it down to the right side, the little finger to slip between the stock and barrel; place the butt quietly on the ground.
- 3rd. Bring the thumb of the right hand on the sling, placing the muzzle in the hollow of the shoulder, the hand flat on the side of the stock.

*4th.*  
*Fix Bayonets.*

- 1st. At the word *Fix*, place the thumb of the right hand, as quick as possible, behind the barrel.
- 2nd. As soon as the word of command is fully given, take a gripe of the firelock, and push the muzzle a little forward, grasping the bayonet with the left hand, the elbow kept well forward, so as not to interfere with the left-hand man, and fixing it with the utmost celerity. The instant this is done, return, as quick as possible, to the *Order* as above described, and stand perfectly steady.

*5th.*  
*Shoulder Arms.*

- 1st. As soon as the word *Shoulder* is given, take a gripe of the firelock with the right hand, as in fixing bayonets.

5th.  
*Shoulder Arms.*

2nd. At the last word *Arms*, the firelock must be thrown, with the right hand, in one motion, and with as little appearance of effort as possible, into its proper position on the left shoulder. The hand crosses the body in so doing, but must instantly be withdrawn.

6th.  
*Present Arms.*

1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand, under the guard, turning the lock to the front, but without moving it from the shoulder.

2nd. Raise the firelock up from the shoulder to the *poise*, by placing the left hand (smartly and with a tell) upon the sling, fingers pointing upwards; the wrist upon the guard, and the point of the left thumb of equal height with the mouth, and close to the forefinger; the piece to be kept perpendicular in this position, the left elbow close to the butt, the right elbow and butt close to the body.

3rd. Bring down the firelock with a quick motion, as low as the right hand will admit without constraint; making it tell with the left hand, which must be placed with a firm hold two inches above the bottom swivel, thumb pointing up, drawing back the right foot at the same instant, so that the hollow of it may touch the left heel. The firelock in this position, with the guard to the front, to be totally supported in the left hand, close in front of and opposite the centre of the body; the right hand lightly holding the small of the butt; the fingers pointing rather downwards; the body to rest entirely on the left foot; both knees straight.

7th.  
*Shoulder Arms.*

1st. By a turn of the right wrist, bring the firelock to its proper position on the left shoulder, making the motion tell, the left hand grasping the butt, and bringing up the right

7th.  
*Shoulder Arms.*

foot at the same instant to its original position ; fingers of the right hand under the cock, thumb pointing up.

2nd. Quit the right hand briskly, and bring it down to the right side.

8th.  
*Port Arms.*

At one motion throw the firelock from the shoulder across the body, meeting it firmly with both hands at the same instant (the right at the small of the butt—the left at the swell,) in a diagonal position, in which the lock is to be turned to the front, the nipple at the height of the centre of the breastplate, the muzzle slanting upwards, so that the barrel may cross opposite the point of the left shoulder, with the butt proportionably depressed. The right hand grasps the small of the butt, and the left grasps the piece at the swell, with the fingers round the barrel, the thumbs of both hands pointing towards the muzzle, both elbows close to the body.

9th.  
*Charge  
Bayonets.*

Make a half-face to the right, the right toe straight off to the right, and the left toe full to the front, and bring down the firelock to nearly a horizontal position, with the muzzle inclining a little upwards, and the right wrist resting against the hollow of the thigh below the hip.

10th.  
*Shoulder Arms.*

1st. Throw the firelock up to its proper position on the left shoulder, the left hand falling smartly on the butt, and grasping it, and at the same instant coming to your proper front ; fingers of the right hand under the cock, thumb pointing up.

2nd. Quit the right hand smartly, and bring it down to the right side.

11th.  
*Advance Arms.*

1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand under the guard, turning the lock to the front, but without moving it from the shoulder.

*Adva*

1  
*Order*

13  
*Advanc*

14th  
*Shoulder*

11th. *Advance Arms.*

2nd. Raise the firelock up from the shoulder to the poise, by placing the left hand upon the sling, fingers pointing upwards, the wrist upon the guard, and the point of the left thumb of equal height with the mouth, and close to the forefinger; the piece to be kept perpendicular in this position.

3rd. Bring the firelock down to the right side with the right hand as low as it will admit without constraint, at the same time striking it smartly with the left hand at the swell, the guard between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, the three last fingers under the cock, with the guard to the front.

4th. Quit the left hand.

12th. *Order Arms.*

1st. At this word the left hand is brought smartly across the body, and seizes the firelock with the forefinger in line with the point of the right shoulder.

2nd. Bring the firelock down as low as the left arm will admit, letting it slip through the fingers of the right hand until it quietly touches the ground.

3rd. Quit the left hand.

13th. *Advance Arms.*

1st. At the word *Advance*, the thumb of the right hand is slipt quickly in rear of the barrel.

At the word *Arms*, it is brought to the advance by a sharp cant of the right hand; the left hand is brought across the body, to steady the firelock to the shoulder.

2nd. Quit the left hand.

14th. *Shoulder Arms.*

1st. Bring up the left hand, and seize the piece at the swell, raising it about one inch; at the same instant slip the thumb of the right hand under the cock, by a turn of the right wrist.



- 14th. *Shoulder Arms.* { 2nd. Throw it smartly to its proper position on the left shoulder, the left hand falling smartly on the butt, grasping it, the fingers of the right hand under the cock, thumb pointing up.  
3rd. Quit the right hand, and bring it to the right side.

*N. B. In these motions great care must be taken to preserve the squareness of the body, and to avoid raising or sinking the shoulder.*

- 15th. *Support Arms.* { 1st. Seize the small of the butt, under the lock, with the right hand, the thumb pointing upwards, the firelock to be raised one inch.  
2nd. Bring the left arm under the cock.  
3rd. Quit the right hand.

- 16th. *Stand at Ease.* { At this word of command the right hand is brought smartly across the body, and seizes the firelock at the small of the butt close up under the left arm, with the thumb of the right hand pointing upwards, the right foot drawn back, the left knee bent, and the firelock a little sloped.

- 17th. *Attention.* { At this word of command the right hand is dropped smartly to the right side, and the right foot brought in line with the left.

- 18th. *Carry Arms.* { 1st. Seize the small of the butt under the left arm, with the right hand.  
2nd. Smartly place the left hand with a tell grasping the butt, the firelock kept steady.  
3rd. Quit the right hand.  
At the same instant allowing the left arm to sink to the full extent.

- 19th. *Slope Arms.* { In sloping arms the upper part of the arm is not to move, the guard of the firelock is to be raised so as gently to press against the hollow of the shoulder, the hand in a line with the elbow, the toe of the butt in a line with the centre of the left thigh.

20th.  
*Stand at Ease.*

On the word *Ease*, bring the right hand smartly across the body, placing it on the left hand, both thumbs on the fore part of the heel of the butt, that of the left hand uppermost, and drawing the right foot back at the same instant, the left knee bent.

21st.  
*Attention.*

At this word of command resume the attitude of attention, by bringing the right hand smartly to the right side, and the right foot in line with the left.

22nd.  
*Carry Arms.*

1st. Drop the left arm to its extent, and bring the right hand smartly across the body; the fore part of the fingers to meet the small of the butt, as in the first motion of the *Secure*.  
2nd. Quit the right hand.

23rd.  
*Order Arms.*

As prescribed in page 24.

24th.  
*Unfix  
Bayonets.*

At the word *Unfix*, slip the thumb of the right hand in rear of the barrel; at the last sound of the word *Bayonet*, force the muzzle a little forward, bring the left hand smartly to the upper loop, the thumb pointing upwards. Seize the socket of the bayonet between the forefinger and thumb of the right hand, pressing the spring back with the first joint of the finger, the back of the knuckle of the second joint being at the same time placed against the bow; raise the bayonet to disengage it from the spring, and when it is as high as the turn, twist it to the left to disengage it from the muzzle; let the bow fall over the thumb, and the two forefingers on the top of the socket, with the left hand force the muzzle of the firelock back to its proper position; at the same instant bring the thumb of the left hand on the top of the scabbard, for the purpose of guiding the bayonet into it; and bring the right hand smartly to the position of ordered arms.

## 25th.

*Stand at Ease.* As before directed.

It is to be understood that whenever a battalion in line charges with bayonets, the whole are in the first instance to advance at a firm quick step, with shouldered arms; at the word *Prepare to Charge*, the firelocks of the front rank will be brought to the long trail, and those of the rear rank to the slope; at the word *Charge*, the firelocks of the front rank will be thrown smartly to the charging position, and the pace increased to *double march*, carefully avoiding too much hurry. The enemy being routed, it will depend on the officer commanding to give the word *Halt*, when both ranks will shoulder arms, and proceed as may be afterwards directed.

In marching any distance, or in standing at ease, when *supported*, the men are allowed to bring their right hand across the body, to the small of the butt, which latter must in that case, be thrown a little forward; the fingers of the left hand being uppermost must be placed between the body and the right elbow; the right hands are to be instantly removed when the division *halts*, or is ordered to *dress by the right or left*.

*Time.*

The motions in the Manual Exercise are to be performed, leaving one pause of the slow time of march between each motion, except that of *fixing bayonets*, in which a longer time must be given. One pause should also be made between the first and last parts of the words of command; for instance, *shoulder* (one pause) *arms*, both in manual and platoon.

The manual is not to be executed by one word, or signal, but each separate word of command is to be given by the officer who commands the body performing it.

*Method of Piling Arms.*

The company standing in close order with ordered arms, and told off by threes, the word *Pile* is then given; the whole of the company slip the thumb of the right hand in rear of the barrel of the firelock, at the same time

Pi

Unpile

*Pile Arms.*

drawing back their right feet, in order to face to their right, with the exception of numbers two in the rear rank; they advance their right feet in the hollow of the left, in order to face to the left. The word *Arms* is then given, the whole of the front rank, and one and three of the rear, face to the right; one and three files of the front rank turn the firelock on the heel of the butt with the sling towards them. One and three files of the rear rank turn the firelock on the heel of the butt with the sling from them, which brings the lock outwards: having done this, they lock their ramrods together, still bearing them well up, so as to show an interval. Number two file of the front rank throws his firelock to the rear as he then stands, and brings his left hand on number one muzzle, and completes that pile; having done that, he remains perfectly steady, faced to the right; in piling with number three, the front and rear ranks have already locked their ramrods. Number two of the rear rank throws his firelock off to his own rear as he then stands, and completes number three pile by bringing his left hand on the muzzle of the firelock; having done this, he faces to the right about, and remains steady.

*Unpile Arms.**Unpile Arms.*

At the word *Unpile*, the whole advance their right feet in the hollow of the left, and seize their firelocks at the top brass, thumbs pointing upwards; the files numbered two of the rear rank must work well round on the hips to reach their firelocks: at the word *Arms*, the whole snatch their firelocks smartly towards them, and front at the same time.

THE  
PLATOON EXERCISE,  
AND DIFFERENT FIRINGS FOR THE  
ORDINARY OR RIFLE MUSKET.

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THE recruit having a thorough knowledge of the different motions of the firelock, as shown in the Manual Exercise, will now be taught the Platoon Exercise, as follows :

Eight or ten *men* being formed in a single rank, at close files, *with their knapsacks on*, and shouldered firelocks, will be thus taught to fire before they are formed in two ranks.

1st. Standing.

2nd. As a front rank kneeling.

3rd. As a rear rank kneeling.

*To load from the shoulder standing.*

*Prepare to  
Load.*

1st. At the word Load, seize the firelock with the right hand immediately under the cock, the forefinger touching the back part of it, the thumb between the stock and barrel, pointing up, the firelock kept steady.

2nd. Quit the butt with the left hand, and grasp the firelock firmly with it, the little finger as high as the shoulder.

3rd. Bring the firelock down in the left hand, and place the butt quietly on the ground, six inches in front of the body, with the barrel to the front, and perpendicular ;

carry the right hand at the same time to the pouch or ball bag, and draw from it a cartridge; the firelock to be held at the full extent of the left arm.

*To load from the advance, standing.*

*Prepare to Load.*

1st. Bring the left hand smartly across the body, and seize the firelock with it, the hand in line with the elbow, which is to be kept close to the body.

2nd. As directed in the 3rd motion of the "prepare to load" from the shoulder, standing.

*To load from the order, standing.*

*Prepare to Load.*

1st. At the word "prepare," slip the thumb of the right hand quickly in rear of the barrel, and at the completion of the word of command, pass the firelock smartly to the left hand, which is to be brought forward to meet it, and proceed as before directed.

*Load.*

1st. Bring the cartridge to the mouth, holding it between the forefinger and thumb, with the ball in the hand, and bite off the top, elbow close to the body.

2nd. Raise the elbow square with the shoulder, with the palm of the hand inclined to the front, and shake the powder into the barrel.

3rd. Reverse the cartridge (keeping the elbow square) by dropping the hand over the muzzle, the fingers in front of the barrel, and place the bullet into the barrel nearly as far as the top, holding the paper above it, between the forefinger and thumb.

4th. By a turn of the wrist from left to right, tear off the paper that remains between the forefinger and thumb, dropping the elbow into the side at the same time, and seize the head of the ramrod with the second joint of the forefinger and thumb.

## PLATOON EXERCISE.

*Rod.*

1st. Force the ramrod half out, and seize it back-handed exactly in the middle, the elbow square with the shoulder.

2nd. Draw it entirely out with a straight arm above the shoulder, turning it at the same time to the front, put it on the top of the bullet, turning the back of the hand to the front; the ramrod is thus held between the two forefingers and thumb, with the two last fingers shut in the hand.

*Home.*

1st. Force the bullet straight down till the second finger of the right hand touches the muzzle; elbow close.

2nd. Press the ramrod lightly towards you, and slip the two forefingers and thumb to the point and grasp it as before.

3rd. Force the bullet steadily straight down to the bottom, bringing the elbow down with it close into the body.

4th. Ascertain that the bullet is resting on the powder by two slight taps, avoiding all sharp strokes.

*Return.*

1st. Draw the ramrod half out, catching it back-handed, with the elbow square.

2nd. Draw it entirely out with a straight arm above the shoulder, turning it to the front; put it into the loops, and force it as quickly as possible to the bottom, the forefinger and thumb holding the ramrod as in the position immediately previous to drawing it.

*Cap.*

1st. Make a half face to the right, by raising the toes and turning on the heels in that direction, the right heel in front of the left, the left toes pointing to the front, and the right toes pointing to the right; bring the firelock at the same time to the right side, with the left hand at the swell, and hold

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it in a horizontal position, *the front rank* pressing the side nail against the right hip, the *rear rank* four inches above it; the right hand holding the small of the butt, and half cock the piece, thumb resting on the cock.

2nd. Advance the forefinger to throw off the old cap (after having fired).

Carry the hand to the cap pocket, and take a cap between the forefinger and thumb.

Put the cap on the nipple, and press it down with the flat part of the thumb; fingers clenched.

Then carry the hand to the small of the butt quietly.

*As Front or  
Rear Rank  
Ready.* yds.

1st. Adjust the sight; with the forefinger and thumb of the right hand place the sliding bar even with the line which indicates the required elevation for the distance named; after which, raise the flap steadily from the top; the fingers of the hand will then resume their former position behind the guard, the thumb resting on the cock.

2nd. Cock the piece, then replace the thumb on the small of the butt, at the same time (*as a front rank*) the right foot will be carried six inches to the rear of, and in line with, the inner side of the left heel; (*as a rear rank*) the right foot will be carried nine inches diagonally to the right, and in rear of the left heel of the man on the right; fix the eye steadily on the object, and incline the body forward from the heels.

In firing by companies, the sliding bar will generally be set to the correct distance before the firing commences; the soldier will then be required to raise the flap only, and cock the piece at the word Ready; but when the squad is exercised in slow time, it will be advisable, for the sake of practice, that some arbitrary distance should be given. Whenever no distance is given, the soldier must judge for himself the distance from the object he is to aim at.

## PLATOON EXERCISE.

*Present.*

1st. Bring the firelock at once to the shoulder, pressing the centre part of the heel-plate firmly into the hollow of it, with the left hand, which must grasp the piece at the swell, the right hand holding it at the small, the right elbow slightly raised (but not so much as to impede the aim of the rear rank man), the muzzle inclining to the bottom of the object and the forefinger of the right hand extended along the side of the trigger guard; at the same time shut the left eye.

2nd. Raise the muzzle slowly and independently until the foresight is aligned through the back sight with the object the right eye is fixed upon; at the same time placing the forefinger on the trigger.

3rd. Pull the trigger with the second joint of the finger by a steady pressure, without the least jerk or motion of the hand or elbow, keeping the eye still fixed on the object.

4th. Bring the firelock down to the capping position, at the same time bring the right foot to the position in which it was placed before coming to the ready; shut down the flap, count a pause of the slow time, and come to the position of "prepare to load."

Too much pains cannot be taken to ensure that the soldier takes a deliberate aim at some specified object whenever he brings his firelock to the "present;" and if no natural object presents itself for the men to aim at, several small bull's-eyes must be marked on the barrack wall.

In coming to the Present, the first care is to press the butt firmly into the hollow of the shoulder, so as to offer a solid resistance to the recoil of the musket, the muzzle inclining downwards, which will be steadily raised, till the foresight is aligned with the object the eye is fixed upon; the inclination of the right cheek to the butt depends entirely on the distance

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Arms*

the soldier may be directed to fire at, or on the elevation given to the musket; if, at a short distance, it must lay on the butt without too much stooping of the head; but if firing at the longer distances, the head must be raised, according as those distances increase; particular care must also be taken that the soldier in this position shuts his left eye when taking aim, looking along the barrel with the right eye, which is to continue fixed on the object after the fire has been given, to ascertain that he has not deranged his musket from the true alignment by pulling the trigger, which must be performed steadily and without the slightest jerk or motion of the right elbow. The necessity of restraining their breathing, when pulling the trigger, should also be impressed on the men.

*Load, &c.*

| As before directed.

*To shoulder when at the capping position.*

*Shoulder  
Arms.*

1st. Throw the firelock up to the proper position on the left shoulder, the left hand following smartly on the butt, and grasping it, the fingers of the right hand under the cock, pointing up, coming to the front at the same time.

2nd. Quit the right hand smartly, and bring it down to the right side.

*To advance arms from the capping position.*

*Advance  
Arms.*

1st. Bring the musket up to the right shoulder with the left hand, the fingers extended on the sling and in line with the elbow, to steady it thereto, the upper part of the barrel close in the hollow of the shoulder, the forefinger and thumb of the right hand place round the guard, the remaining fingers under the cock.

2nd. Quit the left hand, and bring it smartly to the left side.

## PLATOON EXERCISE.

*To make ready from the shoulder.*

*Ready.* yds. { Make a half face to the right in the same manner as at the word *Cap*, at the same time bring down the firelock to the right side, seizing it with the left hand at the swell, holding it in a horizontal position, the *front rank* pressing the side nail against the right hip, the *rear rank* four inches above it, bringing the right hand to the sliding bar to adjust the sight, and proceed as before directed.

*To make ready from the advance.*

*Ready.* yds. { Make a half face to the right in the same manner as at the word *Cap*, bringing the musket at the same time to the horizontal position at the right side, seizing it with the left hand at the swell; the *front rank* pressing the side nail against the right hip, the *rear rank* four inches above it, bringing the right hand to the sliding bar to adjust the sight, and proceed as before directed.

*To fire kneeling.*

*As Front Rank Kneeling.* yds. *Ready.* { Sink down smartly on the right knee, which is to be drawn back about one foot to the rear and six inches to the right of the left heel, the right foot perpendicular and drawn in under the body, the weight of which to rest on the right heel, the firelock to be brought down to the capping position, the side nail in line with the hip, the lower part of the left arm resting on the thigh, bringing the right hand to the sliding bar to adjust the sight, and proceed in the same manner as directed at the word *Ready* when standing.

*Load.  
Rod.  
Home.  
Retu.*

*Cap.*

*Present.*

1st. Bring the firelock at once to the shoulder, pressing the centre part of the heel plate firmly into the hollow of it, with the left hand which must grasp the piece at the swell, the right hand holding it at the small, the right elbow raised, the muzzle inclining to the bottom of the object, and the forefinger of the right hand extended alongside the trigger guard, the left eye shut, and the left elbow resting on the left knee as a support.

2nd.

3rd.

} As before directed.

4th. Bring the firelock down to the capping position, at the same time raising the body from off the right heel, and shut down the flap easily; the lower part of the left arm resting on the thigh; count a pause and bring the piece to the loading position in the following manner.

With the left hand pass the firelock round in front of the body over the left thigh, the butt to the rear and diagonally to the left, so as to be close to the inner side of the left foot of the rear rank man of the file on the left, the sling upwards, the muzzle about one inch in rear of and four inches higher than the left knee, the left leg to be perpendicular; the right hand carry at the same time to the pouch or ball bag, and draw from it a cartridge.

*Load.*

*Rod.*

*Home.*

*Return.*

} As before directed.

*Cap.*

{ Bring the firelock round in front of the left knee to the capping position by shifting it through the left hand, and proceed as before directed.

## PLATOON EXERCISE.

*Shoulder  
Arms.*

1st. Spring smartly upon the feet, bringing the heels in line; throw the piece smartly into the shoulder, fingers of the right hand under the cock; thumb pointing up between stock and barrel.

2nd. Quit the right hand smartly to the right side.

*Advance  
Arms.*

1st. Spring smartly up on the feet, bringing the heels in line, and the firelock into the right shoulder with the left hand, the fingers extended on the sling in line with the elbow to steady it thereto, the upper part of the barrel close in the hollow of the shoulder, the forefinger and thumb of the right hand placed round the guard, the remaining fingers under the cock.

2nd. Quit the left hand smartly to the left side.

*To load from the shoulder as Front Rank kneeling.*

*As Front  
Rank Kneel-  
ing prepare  
to Load.*

1st. At the word Load seize the firelock with the right hand immediately under the cock, the forefinger touching the back part of it, the thumb between the stock and barrel, pointing up, the firelock kept steady.

2nd. Quit the butt with the left hand and grasp the firelock firmly with it, the little finger as high as the shoulder.

3rd. Sink down smartly on the right knee, which is to be drawn back about one foot to the rear and six inches to the right of the left heel, the right foot perpendicular and drawn in under the body, the left leg to be perpendicular; push the butt to the rear and diagonally to the left, so as to be close to the inner side of the left foot of the rear rank man of the file on the left, the sling upwards, the muzzle about one inch in rear of, and four inches higher than, the left knee; carry

# PLATOON EXERCISE.

47

the right hand at the same time to the pouch or ball bag, draw from it a cartridge, and proceed with the loading as before directed.

*To load from the Advance as Front Rank kneeling.*

*As Front Rank Kneeling prepare to Load.*

- 1st. At the word Load seize the firelock with the left hand above the swell.
- 2nd. As directed in the 3rd motion of the Prepare to load, from the shoulder, as front rank kneeling.

*Shoulder or Advance Arms.*

As before directed.

*As Rear Rank Kneeling. yds. Ready.*

Sink down smartly on the right knee, which is to be drawn back one foot to the rear, and one foot to the right of the left heel, the right foot to be perpendicular and drawn in under the body, the weight of which to rest on the right heel, the firelock to be brought down to the capping position, the side nail four inches above the hip, the lower part of the left arm resting on the left thigh; bring the hand to the sliding bar to adjust the sight, and proceed in the same manner as directed at the word Ready when standing.

*Present.*

- 1st. }
- 2nd. }
- 3rd. }

As before directed for front rank kneeling.

4th. Bring the firelock down to the capping position, at the same time raise the body from off the right heel and shut down the flap easily, the lower part of the left arm resting on the thigh; count a pause of the slow time, and bring the piece to the loading position, as follows:

Turn the body to the right and lean well to the rear, with the left hand reverse the



## PLATOON EXERCISE.

firelock, bringing the butt diagonally to the right front, so as to rest against the right knee of the front rank man of the file on the right, the sling upwards, the muzzle as far to the rear and as high as the right elbow; carry the right hand to the pouch or ball bag, and draw from it a cartridge.

*Load.  
Rod.  
Home.  
Return.*

As before directed.

*Cap.*

Give the piece a smart cant with the right hand to the capping position, and proceed as before directed.

*Shoulder or  
Advance  
Arms.*

As before directed.

*To load from the shoulder as Rear Rank kneeling.*

*As Rear  
Rank Kneel-  
ing prepare  
to Load.*

1st. At the word Load seize the firelock with the right hand immediately under the cock, the forefinger touching the back part of it, the thumb between the stock and barrel, pointing up, the firelock kept steady.

2nd. Quit the butt with the left hand, and grasp the firelock firmly with it, the little finger as high as the shoulder.

3rd. Sink down smartly on the right knee, which is to be drawn back one foot to the rear, and one foot to the right of the left heel, the right foot to be perpendicular and drawn in under the body, the left leg to be as upright as possible; turn the body to the right, and lean well to the rear, the butt of the firelock thrown diagonally to the right front, so as to rest against the right knee of the front rank man of the file on the right, the sling upwards, the muzzle as far to the rear and as high as the elbow; carry the right hand to the pouch or ball bag, draw

from it a cartridge, and proceed with the loading as before directed.

*To load from the Advance as Rear Rank kneeling.*

*As Rear Rank Kneeling prepare to Load.*

- 1st. At the word Load seize the firelock with the left hand above the swell.
- 2nd. As directed in the 3rd motion of the Prepare to load from the shoulder, as rear rank kneeling.

N.B.—When loading on the knee, should the word Ready be given when in that position, particular attention must be paid to see that each man brings the weight of his body on the right heel, getting steady in the sitting posture before he attempts to adjust the sight, &c., as also to see that he raises the body when bringing the musket to the capping position to shut down the flap.

When the word Order Arms is given when kneeling, seize the firelock with the right hand in front of the left, spring up to the standing position, the butt to come quietly on the ground; with the left hand seize the firelock under the top swivel, then quit it.

The recruits, being thoroughly grounded in the foregoing instructions, may now be practised in two ranks at close order, in the different firings as a company in line, as a wing of a battalion firing a volley, file firing, &c.

From twenty to thirty files may now be formed into two ranks at close order, with shouldered arms and fixed bayonets.

*As a Company Load.*

The front rank and rear rank, as described in the foregoing directions, each man doing his motions with the greatest celerity, and as correctly as shown in slow time; after returning ramrods, the whole remain perfectly steady, with the forefinger and thumb grasping the head of the ramrod, and after a pause of one pace in slow time, come to the capping position, half-cock, and put a cap on the nipple, which must always be done after loading.

*Company.* | This serves as a caution.

*At        yards* }  
*Ready.*        | As shown before.

*Present.* { As before directed : after firing, make a pause of one pace in slow time, come down to the capping position, and put down the flap, and after another pause, come to the position of Prepare to load, then go on with the loading as before directed. At the close of the "general," or at the word "cease firing," the company if made Ready, receives the word Half-cock Arms.

*Half cock* {  
*Arms.*        | Place the thumb of the right hand on the front of the cock, and the forefinger at the same time on the trigger, the cock is then to be drawn a little back and the trigger to be drawn so as to disengage the catch, the cock to be gently let down till past the catch of the half cock, the cock is then to be drawn back to the catch of the half-cock ; after which put down the flap, and seize the small of the butt with the right hand.

*Shoulder* {  
*Arms.*        | In the usual manner and stand perfectly steady.

But if the company should be in the act of loading, it will go on, and come to the capping position when done, put on a cap, then wait for the word of command of the officer to shoulder.

Firing as a wing, or as a battalion, is performed precisely as laid down for a company.

When a battalion fires a volley, and it is not intended to reload, the caution will be given to "fire a volley and shoulder."

*Battalion.* | This serves as a caution.

*Ready.* | As before directed.

*Present.* | Do.

After firing make a pause of one pace in slow time, come down to the capping position, and put down the flap, then come to the shoulder.

N.B.—A company, wing, or battalion can load or make ready from the order with the same ease as from the shoulder.

Any movement can take place from ordered arms, as occasions may require in the following manner; upon the first word of the caution bring the fingers round the barrel, and raise the butt about one inch from the ground with the muzzle close against the hollow of the shoulder, and at the word halt, resume the position of ordered arms.

The long trail for the ease of the soldier may be used on a line of march, or in marching to and from the place of parade, or exercise, or with guards marching to and from their posts.

Trailed arms must never be used in field movements, as upon such occasions it will cause loose marching and loss of distance.

## *How performed at the halt.*

### *Trail Arms.*

{ Slip the right hand down to the swell of the stock, and lower the muzzle to a horizontal direction, at the same time the rear rank will fall nimbly back a short pace, so that the muzzle of the firelock shall touch the cuff of the front rank man's jacket.

### *Change Arms.*

{ Change from one hand to the other as often as may be necessary.

The short trail must never be used in any instance, except in fixing and unfixing bayonets on the march, as such motion tends to cramp the muscles of the arm.

At the word Halt, arms are to be ordered without the word Order arms, when the rear rank will close to the front.

*Independent or file firing.*

Independent or file firing may commence from the right or left of companies, or from any particular part of the line, as may be directed, and should be done as follows :

At the close of the preparative, the first file will begin, the caution having previously been announced at what part of the line the firing is to commence, when the first file comes to the present, the next file makes ready, and so on for the first fire, after which each file will fire as soon as loaded, the rear rank man keeping his eye on his front rank man, and preserving his fire until his front rank man has fired, and at the close of the general, they will come to the shoulder independently after loading.

N.B.—Each man, before cocking his piece, must adjust his sight for the distance he estimates the object to be from him which he intends to fire at. In file and volley firing, the front rank men must remain perfectly steady after giving their fire, otherwise, the aim of the rear rank men will be deranged.

The recruits having a thorough knowledge of the preceding portion of the drill, may now be formed into four ranks, and practise to receive cavalry with two ranks kneeling, as it is necessary to do so in square four deep.

*Prepare to  
resist Cavalry.  
Ready.*

{ The first rank kneel as front rank, the second rank kneel as rear rank, both bringing at the same time the butt of the firelock in front of the right knee, the lock turned uppermost, the right hand lightly grasping the small of the butt, holding the firelock firm with the left hand, at the middle of that part between the third loop and the swell, the lower part of the left arm resting upon the thigh, the muzzle of the firelock slanting upwards, so that the point of the bayonet will be about the height of a horse's nose.

*Prepare, &c.*

The third rank make ready as a rear rank, with this difference, they will carry their right foot only six inches diagonally to their right rear; the fourth rank make ready as rear rank; in this the kneeling ranks do not cock; the two standing ranks will commence file firing at the close of the preparative, or at the word Commence firing; and at the close of the general, or at the word Cease firing, they will come to the shoulder from the capping position independently, after loading. The kneeling ranks may be fired, if necessary, for which the commander will give the word, *Kneeling ranks, Ready p'sent*, and which they do as directed in the foregoing instructions; then with a quick motion bring the firelock down to resist cavalry as before, and remain perfectly steady till the word Load is given; after loading they will shoulder from the capping position by word of command.

N.B.—When the word Load is given after firing in square, the kneeling ranks will load standing.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## MODE TO BE OBSERVED IN DISMISSING A COMPANY OFF PARADE.

*Recover Arms.* { Bring the firelock to the recover, by throwing it briskly out of the left hand (if with shouldered arms), the guard to the front, the cock resting against the left breast; the left hand seizes the firelock above the lock, and the right hand grasps the small of the butt.

*Right Face.* In the manner prescribed by Regulation.

*Lodge Arms.* { At this word, the whole drop their firelocks smartly to the *port*, the front rank springs off to the left, the rear rank to the right, break off, and quit the parade without noise.

N.B.—In turning in a Guard or Piquet, the same mode is to be observed.

## MANNER OF INSPECTING A COMPANY ON PARADE.

*Attention*..... As per Regulation.

*Fix Bayonets*..... As already directed.

*Shoulder Arms*.... As already directed.

*Rear Rank,*  
*Take Open Order.* } As already directed.  
*March.*

*Slope Arms*..... As already directed.

The inspection of arms will now take place, the inspecting officer trying the springs in passing along the ranks, ascertaining that the locks are perfectly clean, and the nipples free from rust.

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*Carry Arms* ..... As already directed.

*Order Arms* ..... As already directed.

*Examine  
Arms.*

{ At the *Examine*, slip the thumb in rear of the barrels; at the word *Arms*, face to the right, bringing the butt between the feet quickly on the ground, sling towards the body, holding the firelock with the left hand at the full extent of the arm; draw the ramrod, let it down the barrel, and quit the right hand. When the officer comes within one file, draw the ramrod, and place it on the upper brass, nine inches to the front, forefinger one inch in rear of the brass, elbow square, and arm above the ramrod.

*Return  
Ramrods.*

{ Return the ramrods, shifting the firelock on the right side, taking the time from the right-hand man to come to the front and let the butt quietly on the ground.

*An Inspection of the Appointments, Clothing, &c., is now to be made.*

*Unfix Bayonets.  
Rear Rank, take  
Close Order  
(March).  
Stand at Ease.*

{ As already explained.

## POSTING OF SENTINELS.

THE instructor will post his recruits as sentinels, giving each of them some particular orders to attend to, and instruct them, while on their post, not to allow those orders to be infringed; that they are not to quit their arms, or walk more than ten yards on each side of their post; that they are never to converse, loiter, or lounge upon their post, nor remain in their sentry-boxes in good, nor even in moderate weather, but are to move about *briskly* in a soldier-like manner; that on the appearance of an officer, they are to stand firm on any part of



their walk, paying the compliment due, until the officer has passed, taking care to front the point specially recommended to their observance; that to all field officers and to officers of a superior rank, they must present their arms; to all other officers, they are to carry arms. That all guards and sentinels must pay the same compliments to officers of the Royal Navy and Marines as are directed to be paid to the officers of the Army, according to their relative ranks. That although guards do not turn out after sunset to pay compliments, yet sentinels, whenever officers approach their posts, must pay them a proper attention, by standing steady with carried arms, facing to their proper front, nor must this be discontinued until the evening is so far advanced, that they begin challenging and demanding the countersign.

When sentinels are directed to challenge, the recruit must be instructed to do it in a *clear, sharp tone*, pronouncing his words as distinctly as possible. On any one approaching his post, he must challenge them by the words "*Who comes there?*" and at the same moment *port arms*; but if posted where a sudden rush might be made upon him, he will at once come to the *charge*—if the person approaching gives a satisfactory reply the sentinel will direct him to pass;—after the challenge, "*Who comes there?*" should the reply be "*Rounds*," he must instantly demand "*What Rounds?*" if answered "*Grand Rounds*," and he is posted at the guard-house, he must say, "*Stand Grand Rounds*," and turn out the guard by calling out "*Guard, turn out*," remaining steady on his post till the officer has received them, and they have passed.

If he is posted elsewhere than at the guard-house, after the reply of "*Grand Rounds*," he must say "*Stand, Grand Rounds, advance one, and give the countersign*," immediately coming to the *port*, in which position he will receive the *countersign*, after which he must desire them to pass, by saying, "*Pass Grand Rounds, all's well*," shouldering his arms at the same time, and presenting as the rounds pass him.

Visiting rounds are received in the same manner by sentinels.

When double sentries are posted, the front one, on challenging, will come to the *charge* and the rear one to the *port*.

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The duties of sentinels on out-posts before an enemy, beyond that of vigilance on their posts, and a strict attention to the orders that are given them, can only be learned by practice; they never pay any compliments.

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### SENTRIES.

Sentries posted with shouldered arms, are permitted afterwards to *support*, but not to slope them. On the approach of an officer, they immediately *carry* their arms, and put themselves into their proper position, which is not to be done at the instant he passes, but by the time he is within twenty yards of their post, so that they may be perfectly steady before he comes up.

Sentries are to *port arms* when challenging any person approaching their posts.

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### RELIEFS.

If a relief consists of *less than four* men, it is to be formed in a *rank entire*, with the corporal on the right; and on the footpaths in streets, or in narrow thoroughfares, it is to be marched in file in a *single rank*, with the corporal in front, leading. On all other occasions, the corporal is to be on the right; he is to carry his arms *advanced*, with his bayonet fixed.

## TO FIRE A FEU DE JOIE.

THE line drawn up at open order (double distance), with shouldered arms and bayonets fixed.

*With Blank Cartridge, Load.* } In quick time, as per Regulation.

*Ready* ..... As per Regulation.

*Present* ..... Elevated in the air.

The right-hand man of the front rank commences the fire, which will run down the front and up the rear, as quick as possible. When the right-hand man of the rear rank has fired, the whole will glance their eyes to the right, to bring the firelock to the loading position, and when loaded, they will remain steady, waiting for the word—

*Ready, Present.* As before directed.

The same to be repeated a third time.

After the third fire, the whole will glance their eyes to the right, bring the firelocks to the priming position, and then shoulder by word of command.

*Shoulder Arms, Present Arms, Shoulder Arms, Order Arms,* } As per Regulation.

Three cheers.

## DIRECTION FOR FUNERAL PARTIES.

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THE party appointed for the escort, according to the rank of the deceased, is to be drawn up two deep, with open ranks and unfixed bayonets, facing the house or marquee where the corpse is lodge ; and when it is brought out, the officer commanding will give the following words of command :

PRESENT ARMS.

REVERSE ARMS.

*(Explanation for Reversing Arms.)*

Throw the firelock out to the front to the full extent of the left arm, give the butt a cant with the right hand towards the body, the muzzle is turned straight over to the front, seize the firelock with the right hand at the swell, muzzle pointing down, guard as high as the chin.

Seize the cock with the left hand without moving the firelock, give the firelock a cant under the left arm, the right hand is thrown behind the body and grasps the firelock, the right heel at the same time is brought to its original position.

The officers' swords are reversed under the right arm, the point of the sword downwards, grasping the hilt with the right hand.

The serjeant's fusils are reversed also under the left arm.

REAR RANKS TAKE CLOSE ORDER, MARCH.

The party will then wheel forwards or backwards by divisions, or sub-divisions, as circumstances may required, and will stand a column, the left in front, until the procession is ready, when the ranks will be opened by word of command.

## FUNERAL PARTIES.

## MARCH.

The party move off in slow time, followed by the music, with drums muffled, playing the Dead March.

**The Corpse,**

PALL-BEARERS OF EQUAL RANK WITH THE  
DECEASED.

CHIEF MOURNERS.

OFFICERS TWO AND TWO,

According to rank, the juniors next to the body of the  
deceased.

When the first division of the funeral party arrives near the burial ground, the word of command, "Halt," is given, and the officer commanding will order the ranks of the divisions to wheel to the right and left, having been previously told off for that purpose, and facing inwards, forming a lane for the corpse to pass through.

REST UPON YOUR ARMS REVERSED.

*(Explanation.)*

The firelock is quitted by the right hand and brought to a perpendicular position; the muzzle placed upon the toes of the left foot. The right and left hands open are placed upon the butt-end of the firelock.

STAND AT EASE.

The soldiers' heads lean on the back of the left hand, so as to look towards the corpse.

The corpse, &c., having passed through the lane, the word "Attention" is given, on which the soldiers raise their heads.

REVERSE ARMS.

The ranks are then wheeled up, and at "Open Order" move in slow time, and form in line in the same order near to and facing the grave.

## FUNERAL PARTIES.

61

The command will then be given,

REST UPON YOUR ARMS REVERSED.

STAND AT EASE.

After the performance of the Funeral Service, the following words of command are given :

ATTENTION.

*Present Arms.*

1st. Seize the firelock with the left hand at the swell, thumb in front, back of the hand towards the body.

2nd. Seize the small of the butt with the right hand, the back of it to the left, thumb pointing down.

3rd. Turn the firelock with the butt towards the body to the position of presented arms.

SHOULDER ARMS.

LOAD WITH BLANK CARTRIDGE.

FIRE THREE VOLLEYS IN THE AIR.

ORDER ARMS.

FIX BAYONETS.

SHOULDER ARMS.

REAR RANKS TAKE CLOSE ORDER.

Wheel backwards by divisions on the left, and march to camp or barracks, the right in front, quick time.

In marching back, the music is not to play, or the drums to beat, until the party is entirely clear of the burying-ground.

# LIGHT INFANTRY.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

FOR

## LIGHT INFANTRY FORMATIONS.

### S. 1. *Duties, Movements, Training, &c.*

Object of light infantry movements.

THE duties of light troops in the field are both varied and important; to them the safe guard of the camp is usually intrusted, and by them the cantonments of the army are protected from the sudden or unexpected approach of the enemy. When the army is in motion, the light infantry reconnoitre the country in its front, feel for the enemy, or clear the way for columns in advancing, and protect them from being too closely pressed upon or harassed, in retreating. They conceal and cover the movements and manœuvres of the line, watch the motions of the enemy, and ascertain the nature of the ground and country in advance of the main body; and upon their efficiency, the general, often very much, depends for the necessary information to enable him to regulate and direct his columns.

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Requisite qualifications of light troops.

2. Judgment, tact, and decision on the part of officers, and individual intelligence and correctness of eye, whether in selecting cover, or in taking aim, are the chief requisites in good light troops, and which alone can insure the prompt and accurate performance of the duties enumerated in No. 1.

Battalions of the line required to practise movements in extended order.

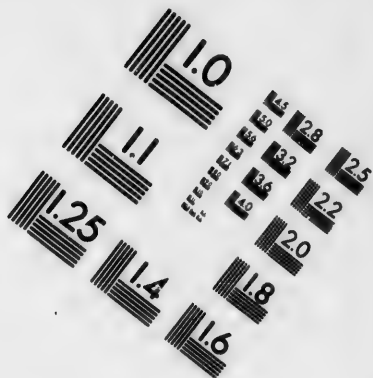
3. When battalions of the line are in perfect order in all the detail of line movements, it is essential that they should be practised in certain extended formations. It is always desirable that a battalion of the line, in the absence of any force of light infantry beyond the light companies of regiments, should be competent to assist in protecting the front and flanks of a column of march; and the formation of an advanced guard and the posting of piquets apply to all descriptions of infantry corps.

General remark.

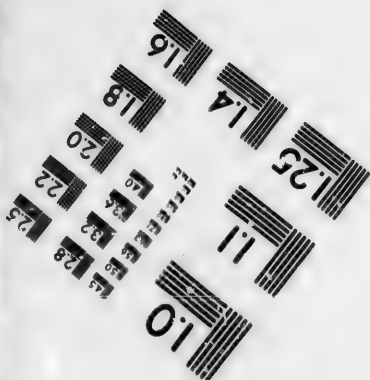
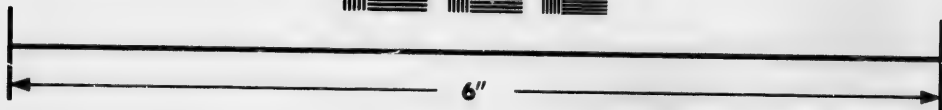
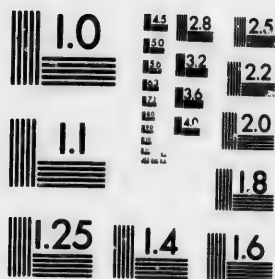
4. The first thing to be attended to in the training of light infantry is the careful instruction of officers and non-commissioned officers. These points, indeed, constitute the elements of discipline in every corps, whose excellence or deficiency will ever be in proportion to the degree of information possessed by those who are to instruct the soldier and superintend his actions; but in light corps especially, the necessity of devoting additional time and attention to this object will become at once apparent, when we consider the liability of this branch of the service to be detached in small parties, demanding in consequence, in the most junior grades, an extent of judgment and capacity, the exercise of which, circumstances may daily call for in the field. The light infantry officer who, on service, is constantly intrusted with com-







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mand, and thrown upon his own resources, ought therefore to possess that quick and certain *coup d'œil* (only to be acquired by practice), which will enable him readily to adapt his measures to the ground on which he may be acting, whether in driving back an enemy, in advancing, or in checking his progress in retiring :—in a word, he should be trained so as to prepare him for every contingency that may occur in the field, and be taught to know and feel that there are few situations in which a small body, ably conducted, may not retire in safety and with honour in presence of a large one.

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### S. 2. *Signals and Sounds for regulating Movements.*

1. Signals and sounds are necessary in various situations ; they are intended as substitutes for the voice ; but as they are liable to be misunderstood they should never be resorted to, excepting when the voice cannot reach, or for the purposes of drill and instruction.

To be as few and as simple as possible.

2. For this reason, and as the same sound upon a different key, or in different time, is apt to occasion mistakes, they ought to be as few and as simple as possible.

No movement to be executed until the last sound of the bugle.

3. No movement should ever be executed until the bugle sound is perfectly finished ; and in the combinations of the sounds with the "*Fire*," that sound should always be the *last*, otherwise the company might immediately commence a fire upon the spot ; and if the march or retreat were to follow, it would not be heard.

4. The following sounds appear sufficient for every situation in which light infantry can be employed :

The OFFICER'S CALL, { as established, and  
therefore not num-  
bered.

I. To EXTEND—from that part of the line where the bugle sounds, except preceded by the distinguishing G.

II. To CLOSE—to the spot from whence it proceeds, and for skirmishers to run in upon the supports, except preceded by the distinguishing G.

III. To ADVANCE—in order of the present formation.

IV. To HALT—in the same order; excepting in retiring by alternate ranks, in which case they form up to the front. The *halt* annuls all previous sounds except to *fire*.

V. To FIRE.—If when halted, they fire upon the spot, skirmishers selecting their objects. If on the march, whether advancing in a general line or retiring by alternate ranks, the men of a file fire alternately, one being always loaded.

VI. CEASE FIRING.—Every man to cease firing, and load.

VII. To RETREAT.—When not firing, to retire immediately in *quick* time. The line, reserves, and skirmishers, facing to the right about, if no other order or rate is specified.

VIII. ASSEMBLY.—This sound may be used on many occasions, *viz.*, to turn out a corps or company at any time by day or night : to

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

repair to a place of rendez-vous previously appointed, when extended as skirmishers, and surprised by cavalry in open ground. For skirmishers, with their supports and reserves, to run in upon the battalion.

IX. INCLINE TO THE RIGHT. If on the march *Left shoulders forward*. If halted, the skirmishers will take ground to the right in file.

X. INCLINE TO THE LEFT. *Right shoulders forward*, or *Left face*, according as the skirmishers may be in motion or halted.

## XI. THE ALARM.

5. The following signals being repetitions, or combinations of the preceding sounds, are not numbered :

The ADVANCE and RETREAT.—Sounded when inclining to a flank, indicate, that sufficient space has been gained to a flank, and that the original direction is to be resumed. When a line of skirmishers, or an advanced or rear guard, is required to occupy more space to the right and left, the bugle will sound *from the centre extend*, upon which they will open out to one-half more than their original extension.

Distinction between the assembly and the close.

6. If, when the battalion or company is detached the skirmishers have to close, they always run in upon the supports in the *first* place, and the assembly will afterwards be the signal for the *whole* to close in upon the battalion : but if the assembly sounds first, without any close, it is a signal for the whole to make the best of their way to the rear of the battalion ; in which case they must move as rapidly as they can, as this implies the

How the Bugle increased.

Time of m

necessity of greater expedition : the supports fall back in steady double time. If skirmishers are pursued when the assembly is sounded, they should be taught to keep wide of the battalion.

7. The **ADVANCE—RETREAT—HALT—FIRE—CEASE FIRING**, are the only sounds which should be repeated by all the buglers on every occasion.

How the use of the Bugle may be increased.

8. The use of the bugle may be considerably increased by adopting the use of three simple G's, as distinguishing sounds.

One G to denote the right of the line.

Two G's, the centre.

Three G's the left.

This, preceding any sound, denotes the part of the line to which it applies. For instance, two G's before the **EXTEND**, signifies to extend from the centre. One G followed by the **CLOSE**, signifies to close to the right. When no G is prefixed to the **EXTEND**, it will mean from that part of the line where the bugle sounds.

9. There should be a pause of three seconds between all orders by sounds.

10. Signals by bugle sounds do not apply to bodies of troops in reserve.

Time of movement.

11. When no particular time is specified, light infantry movements, in close order, will usually be in quick time, formations from file or on the march excepted. Formations from extended order, and extensions on the march, are in double time, subject always to the discretion of the commanding officer, who will

never apply it so as to harass or exhaust the men unnecessarily. There are, however, occasions of constant occurrence upon service where no other time will suit,—such, for example, as to seize an advantageous point ; and in formations on the march, when it is desirable that the leading company (or section) of a column should continue to advance, while the line is rapidly formed upon it, by those in the rear bringing shoulders forward, and moving up in double time, each company following and conforming to the movement of the one in front of it, without waiting for any word of command. There are many situations in which a light corps may be placed before an enemy, where this kind of training will be found both useful and effective.

NOTE.—Every regiment should have a well marked and simple regimental call.

Distance

### S. 3. *Detail of Formation.*

1. When soldiers are drilled by word of command, they move at the *last* word, which should be given short :—PACES—FROM THE RIGHT—EXTEND.

PACES—FROM THE CENTRE—EXTEND, &c.

TO THE RIGHT—CLOSE, &c.

ADVANCE—HALT—FIRE—RETIRE, &c.

Light companies should often be practised in judging their own distance of files ; the points on which the flanks are to rest being previously notified.

*To extend from the halt.*

As soon as the order is given, (either by word of command, or by bugle,) the officers drop to the rear : the captain places himself

*To fire i  
ed order  
spot.*



in rear of the centre ; the first lieutenant is in rear of the right, the second in rear of the left ; the third subaltern remains with the captain, ready to receive his orders. The serjeants fall likewise to the rear. At the last sound of the bugle, the named file stands fast ; the remainder trail arms, face, and extend in quick time, unless ordered to move at the Double march.

2. The front rank men of files move straight before them, covering correctly on the march ; their respective rear rank men cast their eye over the inward shoulder, and tap their front rank men, at the distance of two, four, six or any other given number of paces, as a signal for them to halt, front, and order arms.

Distance of Files.

3. The paces are indicated by the previous caution of the commanding officer ; but if no number is specified, six paces is the regulated distance between the files. If the left hand file, who leads on this occasion, be a steady man, and has moved correctly on his front, the line will require little dressing, to much attention to which, in extended order, is to be carefully avoided. If the distance between the files be not correct it must not be altered by closing or opening out : this can only be done upon the march.

*To fire in extended order on the spot.*

4. So soon as the " *Fire*" has sounded, the front rank men fire and commence loading and the rear rank men (when it is their turn to fire) take a step of ten inches to the right with the right foot, and, as soon as they have fired, they will again cover their front rank men and load.

*To cease firing.*

5. In this manner the firing is continued, until the bugle sounds the "*Cease*." After this sound, not a shot must be heard ; the unloaded men re-load as rapidly as possible, and the whole then remain steady, and ready to move.

*To fire kneeling on the spot.*

6. This caution is repeated by the officers, and, where there is any deficiency of them, by the serjeants, along the line. The bugle sounds the "*Fire*," and the whole drop instantly on the knee. The right knee is on the ground, and the right leg to the rear. The rear rank man, in coming down, disengages to the right, so as to be able to fire clear of his front rank man. The firing proceeds as before, with this difference, that the rear rank men retain their place, and continue disengaged, to avoid the awkward movement covering and uncovering upon their knees.

*To fire lying.*

7. The caution to *Lie down* is given as above, and at the "*Fire*," the whole drop on both knees, (the rear rank men disengaging,) and throw themselves on their bellies ;—the firing proceeds as before ; the men load on their knees, or they may load lying, though the latter is an objectionable position, and very liable to accident. Riflemen may fire on their backs in favourable situations ; in this position the feet are crossed, the right foot passing through the sling of the rifle, and the piece supported by it ; but this position is not suited to the musket of light infantry companies of the line : it furnishes a steady aim with a rifle. If, in a very exposed situation, the soldier attempts to load lying, he will, after priming, roll over on his back, and, placing the butt between his legs,

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the lock upwards, and the muzzle a little elevated, draw his ramrod, and go on with his loading without exposure, rolling over on his breast again when ready to fire.

*The line will advance.*

8. At the last sound of the bugle to "*Advance*," the whole step off in quick time, keeping their distances from the centre.

*The line will retire.*

9. At the last sound of the bugle the whole go to the left about and retire together, rear rank leading.

*To fire—advancing.*

10. At this signal the front rank man of each file fires and instantly drops to the rear, by the left of his comrade, and loads upon the march; and as soon as he is loaded, he will give the word "*Ready*" in an under tone of voice, and the other man fires and proceeds in the same manner, taking care that both men are never unloaded at the same time. The men must cover their file leaders, who, without withdrawing their attention from the objects in their front, can with a glance of the eye avoid losing distance, or getting before or behind the file next to them towards their centre.

**NOTE.**—When any difficulty is experienced in loading on the march, (with riflemen, for example,) the men, after firing, may drop to the rear, and halt to load, running up to their file leaders (who continue moving on) when loaded, and giving the word "*Ready*" as before—so on alternately. In parade practice, however, on open ground, it is desirable that the men should always go through the motions on the march, as it tends to make them expert and handy with their arms.

*To fire—retiring.*

11. If in motion the whole halt; the front rank men gives their fire, and move straight to the rear, loading on the march: when their loading is completed they will halt, front, and kneel down, in the position of

making ready. Then the rear rank men (who had kneeled down when their front rank men retired) will fire and retire smartly in the same manner, passing to the proper left of their front rank men, and commencing their loading as soon as they have passed, halt, front, and kneel when loaded, as before :—thus the ranks continue to retire alternately, as soon as they hear the ramrods working of the rank that has retired. In the field, however, the distance to be taken by each rank in retreating will depend upon the movements of the enemy, the nature of the ground, and other circumstances ; but when cover presents itself at hand, the men should always avail themselves of it.

*Halt.*

12. At this signal, if *advancing*, the skirmishers kneel down, taking advantage of any inequalities of the ground in their neighbourhood, and continuing to fire until the *Cease firing* has sounded. If the skirmishers *are retiring*, the rank next the enemy will stand fast (or face about if not already fronting towards the enemy), and the other rank closes up to it, kneeling down ; and the whole continue firing, taking care that both ranks are never unloaded at the same time.

*To close.*

13. On the signal being sounded, the men trail arms, face to the point required, close in quick time, and order arms. *If on the march*, the named file moves steadily on, the remainder make a half-turn and close in double time.

*To extend while a division is advancing ;—from the centre—from the right—or, from the left.*

14. In all these cases, the files from which the extension takes place move straight forward in quick time ; the others make a half-turn to the flank to which they are ordered to extend, and move off at double time. As

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soon as each file has got its regular distance, it will turn to the front, and advance, resuming the quick time ; rear rank men covering their front rank men, and keeping in line with the directing file.

*To incline to the right.*  
*Incline to the left.*  
*Advance.* 15. The skirmishers make a half-turn to the flanks to which they are ordered to incline, (rear rank men covering their front rank men,) and continue in the diagonal direction, until the "Advance" is sounded, when they will return to their original front, and move forward as before. If, when the skirmishers have made the half-turn, the bugle should sound the "Incline" a second time, the men's shoulders should be brought up, so as to complete the face, and march in file.

*To fire, inclining to a flank.* 16. To fire when inclining to the right or left, the front rank men halt, take steady aim and fire, then drop to the rear, passing behind their rear rank men, and loading on the march ; the rear rank men halt and fire as soon as their front rank men are loaded, and drop to the rear of their front rank, and so on alternately.

*To halt from the incline.* 17. At this signal, the whole front, and kneel down, continuing to fire until the signal for "Cease Firing" has sounded.

*Change front : to the right, on the right file.* 18. The right file faces to the right, kneeling, the others rise up and trail : at the word *Double March*, they bring the left shoulders forward, and form on the right file. The distance will be preserved from the halted flank. Each file will move in the shortest line to its situation in the new position, and instantly kneel down.

Double March.

*Right or Left Shoulders for- wards.* 19. But in throwing a wing backward or forward, the distance of files must be preserved from the inward flank, and they must look to

the outward flank for dressing, and bring forward the shoulders gradually, conformably to its progress.

*Change front on the left file, right thrown back.* 20. The left hand file faces to the right kneeling. The others rise up, trail, and face to the right about; step off at the double march, and, when in line, face about and kneel.

Double March.

*General Remark.* 21. The movements and formations laid down in this section comprise the elementary part of light infantry drill in extended order, as taught the soldier on parade. The application of the drill to field purposes, comprising the instruction of the soldier in the value of ground, &c., will be treated of in the next and subsequent sections, which have for their object the training of the soldier to a practical knowledge of his duties in the field before an enemy.

#### S. 4. Skirmishing.

1. Skirmishing or acting in extended order requires, more than any other military formation, constant practice, on every possible variety of ground, to make a soldier expert at it: here the sagacity and experience of the man must often in a great measure supply the want of orders and directions from the officer. To his own eye and judgment the skirmisher must often trust in regulating his movements: it is therefore obvious, that without intelligence, and habits of observing, and profiting by, localities,—and without confidence in himself, the result of knowledge thus acquired; and of expertness in the use of his musket,—no man ever will become an efficient skirmisher.

2. A company, or companies, may extend by files from any part of the line, and at various distances, as may be ordered ; and it is a rule that the men of a file invariably act together, to inspire confidence, and to afford mutual protection and support.

*Detached Skirmishers.* 3. Detached skirmishers are governed by circumstances and situation : they must never, however, get too far in advance, so as to expose their flanks, but must regulate their movements by the files upon their right and left. They will fire either standing, kneeling or lying, as the case may require, ever bearing in mind that the grand requisites in skirmishing are a sure, quick, and steady aim, together with that ready tact in seizing, at a glance, those local advantages which enable a man to do the utmost injury to his enemy with the least exposure to himself.

*General line of skirmishers.* 4. In the field, skirmishers advance in a general line, pushing on, or falling back from post to post, and never standing exposed even for an instant, when there is cover of any kind at hand. It is therefore always proper, when obliged to advance, across an open space, upon an enemy posted under cover, to make a quick and simultaneous rush towards the point : a regular and systematic advance, across such ground, however resolutely conducted, would entail a great and very useless sacrifice of lives.

*To advance in a general line firing.* 5. At the signal TO FIRE, the front rank man of each file fires and instantly drops to the rear by the left of his comrade, and loads as quickly as he can upon the MARCH, giving the word READY when loaded, as the signal for his file leader (who has continued lead-

ing on, in a threatening attitude) to fire. As often, however, as cover of any kind presents itself within reach, each file, in mutual concert, will make for it, one man running on while his comrade covers his advance, by aiming at the enemy, and distracting his attention: he then in turn runs forward, when the cover is secured, and both continue to fire from the spot as many shots as circumstances and the general movements of the line may sanction, always remembering, that the great object in advancing is to drive back the enemy's skirmishers, rapidly and in confusion, on their reserves, giving them no time for rallying, or making a stand. It is by individual intelligence and judgment in the knowledge of ground and choice of cover,—by the combination of individual exertion, directed to a general end, rather than by the semblance of uniformity,—that the proficiency and excellence of light troops must be judged and estimated.

**To retire firing.**

6. On a plain the skirmishers may retire by alternate ranks, as prescribed in last section; but whenever the country is in the least degree wooded, broken, or inclosed, it will always be found advisable to retire in a general line, trusting to the skill of the officer, and the firmness and intelligence of the men, for disputing it successfully. By this method the well-trained skirmisher, whose eye is formed by practice, will often find cover and destroy his enemy, where his inexperienced comrade would stand exposed. Before moving, the skirmisher is taught to scan the ground he is to traverse in falling back, and having selected his next station, he will make for it with the utmost expedition. When a line of skir-

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skirmishers is hard pressed in retreating, there is no better way of giving them relief, and at the same time of offering an obstinate resistance to the enemy, than by extending the supports as often as an eligible line of defence presents itself, the old skirmishers passing quickly through the new line, forming into supports; again in turn extending, and so on alternately. Even on a plain this will be found to be the best mode of disputing the ground: the supports, after extending, should lie down until the old skirmishers have passed through them.

Accurately dressed lines no object in skirmishing.

7. Accurately dressed lines are not an object in skirmishing: the men must be guided entirely by the nature of the ground they are acting on; all that can be desired on this head is, that the files should be so placed as to support, and fire clear of, each other.

Skirmishers to be carefully trained to a knowledge of ground and distances.

8. Cover, as already observed, being the great object to be attended to, skirmishers, whether advancing or retiring, must be taught carefully to examine the ground they are to pass over, previous to quitting shelter; and to select some eligible spot for their next halting-place. Any open space to be traversed in advancing should always be run over; while in retiring, they should endeavour, if the ground is open, to get beyond the accurate range of musketry from the spot they quit, before coming to a stand, thereby rendering the shelter they are leaving useless to the enemy; and obliging them, in coming on, to pass over such open space, exposed to the destructive fire of men who are both sheltered and prepared.

General rule for loading.

9. It is a rule that both men of a file are never unloaded at the same time; that they

always load when practicable under cover, previous to moving in advance, and after falling back in retreat, from one spot to another.

All unnecessary bugling to be avoided.

10. It will often be prudent to communicate orders to a line of skirmishers, by passing them along the rear, instead of betraying an intended movement by the bugle. For "*the retreat*" to one party is the "*advance*" to their opponents, who are generally well acquainted with the sounds and prepared to act upon them. Too much bugling under any circumstances is to be avoided, as tending to distract the attention of the soldier, and to cause confusion.

Supports and Reserve.

11. No line of skirmishers ever ought to be without near and sufficient supports, sustained by a main reserve, when acting at any distance from the main body. But it is inexpedient to distribute troops, in a variety of small supports, in turn supported by several reserves, in rear of skirmishers. On an advanced guard *alone* numerous small parties are required for the purpose of feeling and exploring. But under all circumstances, the reserve should ever be a single body preserved entire and compact.

Strength and distances of supports and reserves.

12. With respect to the strength of supports, the rule is, that they should be composed of numbers equal to the line of skirmishers; and in general they should move from one hundred to a hundred and fifty yards in their rear. The reserve should always be at least one-third part of the whole body, and should generally be kept from sixty to a hundred yards in rear of the supports.

General rule for the movement of supports.

13. The supports advance and retire generally in line, except when threatened with

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of sections; and skirmishers, in running in on  
a support, form up in sections in its rear. Sup-  
ports move to a flank in column of sections.

Skirmishers to over-  
lap the flanks of line.

In covering the advance of lines, skir-  
mishers will take care to protect and overlap  
the flanks.

Relieving skirmishers  
when halted.

14. In relieving a line of skirmishers, the  
new line extends in the rear, out of reach of  
the enemy's fire, and afterwards runs up to  
the old line; each file of the former proceed-  
ing rapidly to the rear, under the protecting  
fire of the new line, and when out of reach of  
the enemy's fire, they close in upon their sup-  
ports. But should an immediate advance be  
intended, the relieved skirmishers ought to  
remain in the line, lying down, instead of ex-  
posing themselves to a fire whilst retiring.

When advancing.

15. If the relief takes place while advanc-  
ing, the new skirmishers will run up in the  
same way, and pass briskly in front of the  
others; the old skirmishers *lie down* till they  
are out of the enemy's fire, after which they  
close upon their supports as before.

When retiring.

16. If relieving while retiring, the new skir-  
mishers extend a considerable distance in the  
rear, and each man looks out for a good situa-  
tion. The old skirmishers continue to retire  
in their usual order, until within 20 or 30 paces  
of the former; they then run through them to  
the rear, until they are out of reach of the  
enemy's fire, after which they close.

Supports and skir-  
mishers to relieve  
each other.

17. Those which have been acting as sup-  
ports may relieve their own skirmishers in  
this way,—in which case the latter afterwards

form in as many parties of support as the others consisted of, closing to the right and left accordingly, when out of reach of the enemy's fire, and always, when practicable, completing their ammunition.

The whole relieved, or strengthened, or diminished.

18. But if the reserves and skirmishers are *all* relieved by fresh parties, each of the supports preserves the relative position with respect to *their own* skirmishers, until the two lines have relieved each other. Any *part* of a line of skirmishers may be relieved in the same manner: it may also be strengthened by throwing forward one or more companies or sections to particular parts of the line; in that case they must mix with the others, and divide the distances; or it may be weakened by calling in one or more sections, in which case the remaining skirmishers will extend to the right and left, so as to cover the vacancies of those who retired.

General rule to be observed when skirmishing at a distance from the column or line.

19. If a company be directed to skirmish at a distance, detached from the timely support of the column or line, one general principle must be observed, namely, that never more than one half must be sent forward to skirmish at a time; the other half remain formed and ready to support.

General rule for a battalion skirmishing.

20. When a battalion is employed in skirmishing, at a distance from the column, and is required to extend its full complement of skirmishers, (which should never exceed a third of the whole,) the six right companies will move forward sixty paces, the three left companies, of the six, halt with closed ranks, the other three, moving on, extend in double time upon the march, from any named file, which file moves straight to its front in quick

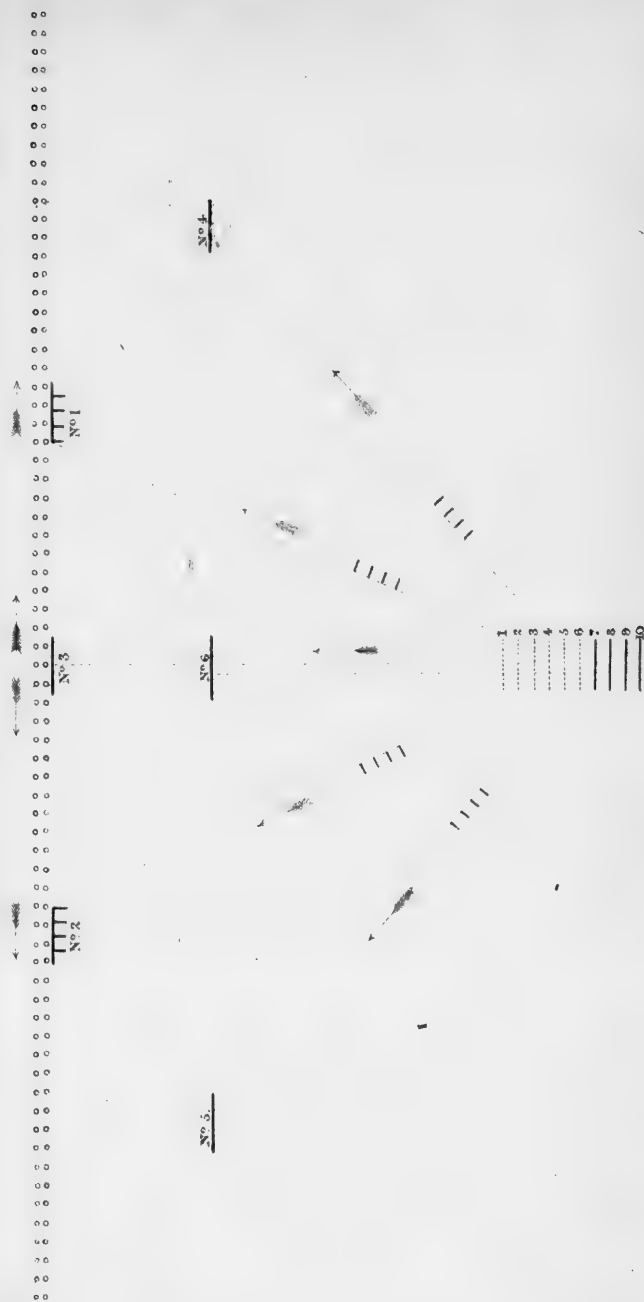
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*The Battalion from Column covering the front of the Division or Brigade*



The battalion  
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Plato 2

time. The supports divide the ground by companies in the rear, one towards each flank, the third behind the centre; and when the skirmishers are a hundred yards in advance, they will move on followed by the reserve. The distribution and distance of the supports must, however, always be left in a great measure to the field officer in charge of them, and he can be guided only by circumstances, and the nature of the country in his front. Should one half of the line of skirmishers, for example, occupy safe and strong ground, while the other half is exposed to danger on the plain, it is obvious that the one wing would require more support than the other. The commanding officer moves on, at the head of the main reserve of four companies, to sustain the whole, sometimes in column, sometimes in line, as the situation and the presence of cavalry, or the fire of artillery, may require. His eye embraces the whole theatre of operations, and he is ever ready to avail himself of every advantage that may offer.

The battalion from column covering the front of the division or brigade.

Plate 2.

21. Should the battalion *in column* be required to cover the front of the division or brigade, the front company will, on the caution, move to the right in column of sections by the command, *Sections, left shoulders forward, forward*, following the direction of the outer flank of the third company from the front, which extends from its centre, the second company from the front moves *sections right shoulders forward*, to the left, in like manner following the direction of the left of No. 3. Nos. 1 and 2, when on the extremities of the *extended line* of No. 3, will *shoulders forward* into line, and extend from their inner flanks. Distance between skirmishers

six paces. Simultaneous with the above movements, No. 4 wheels forward by sections to the right, and moves to form the right support; No. 5, by sections to the left, to form the left support; No. 6 marches direct to the front, and forms the centre support. The remaining four companies of the battalion form

Change of front (for example, to the right.)

Plate 3.

the reserve. Should a change of front be required (to the right), No. 4 wheels to the right and extends from the right: Nos. 6 and 5 bring their shoulders forward, and march to their places in the new alignment, where they extend and elongate the line of skirmishers. The old skirmishers close to that flank which will remove them farthest from the enemy's fire, and as soon as closed are marched by companies to the rear of the reserve, which sends out the three front companies to form new supports.

22. When a light battalion marches in open column in the vicinity of an enemy, one company will be formed in front, as an advanced guard; one in rear, as a rear guard; and half a company on each flank, as flanking parties.

23. The same disposition will extend to a brigade of the line, when the three light companies may be employed in the same manner.

Flanking parties.

24. The company to perform this duty will extend its sub-divisions, so as to cover the entire flank, or flanks, of the column with intermediate supports if necessary. The whole will move in file parallel to the column, and the leading file will take the outside flank skirmishers of the advanced guard for his general line of march. When the column halts, the flankers and supports face outwards to the enemy.



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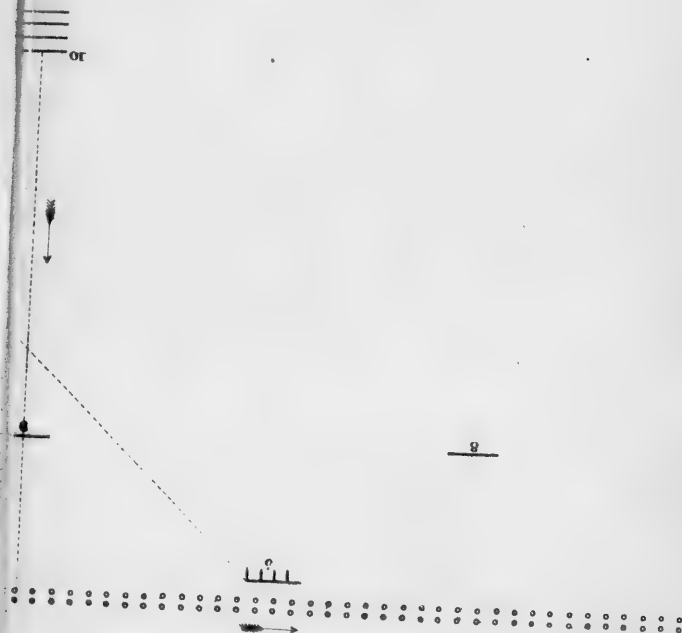
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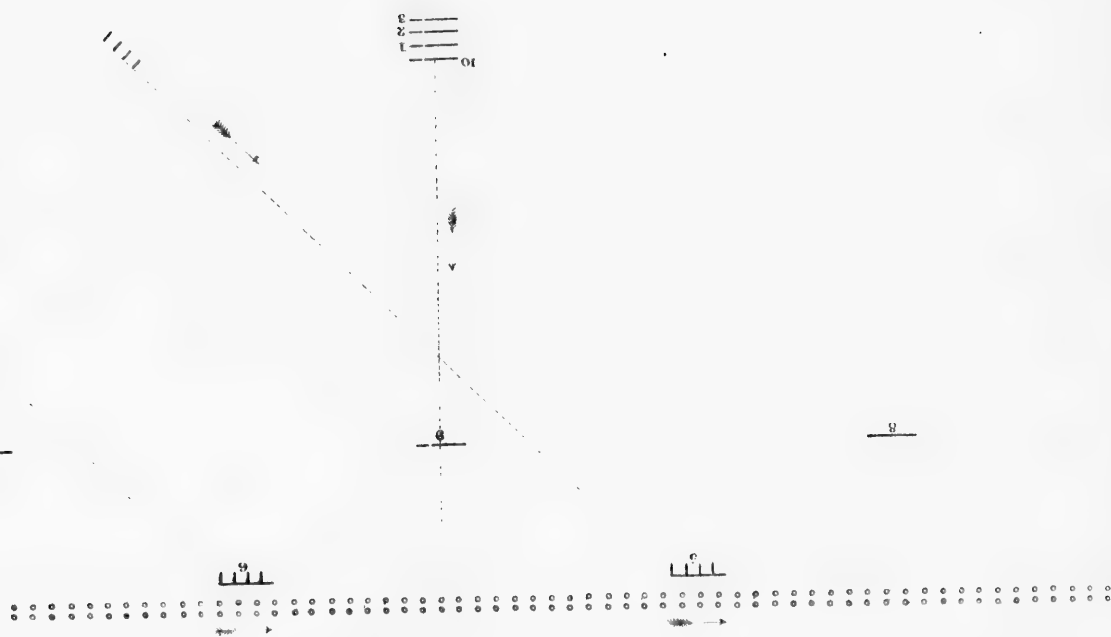
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How the unity of companies when skirmishing is best preserved.

25. When more than one company is employed in skirmishing, one company should skirmish and another support. Unnecessary division of part is always objectionable.

Skirmishers to clear the front of the battalion when the assembly sounds.

26. When a company is skirmishing in front of a battalion, and the ASSEMBLY sounds, it is of the utmost consequence that the front of the battalion should be left clear as soon as possible.

How to run in on the battalion.

27. The skirmishers, therefore, if detached to any distance, must endeavour instantly to discover the exact situation of the battalion, and decide in what direction to run in, adopting that mode which will least impede, and soonest leave it in a situation for firing or advancing.

Formation of square.

28. When the battalion forms square, they will take the most direct and short way to the rear, and close up and compose the rear face.

29. If the skirmishers *are not called in* while the battalion performs any movement, they must with the utmost rapidity, change their situation so as to correspond with the new order of the battalion; and their attention and activity are chiefly required in protecting it during the change.

Instructions for skirmishers and their supports when charged by cavalry.

30. In skirmishing across a country either in advance or in retreat, there is nothing to be more guarded against than a sudden rush of cavalry upon the extended line, while passing over any open space that may present itself. To protect the skirmishers from assaults of this nature, to give them time to rally, and to cover their formation, is one of the chief duties of supports, which should

therefore be composed of compact bodies, not fixed to any particular point, but ever presenting themselves where the skirmishers are most exposed to danger from the enemy's horse—watching the flanks, and such other parts of the line as may be threatened, or appear most vulnerable.

Supports are points of formation for the skirmishers when charged only when there is time to form without confusion.

31. It is clearly understood that the supports are only to be considered as points of formation for the skirmishers, when there is sufficient time to run in upon them and complete a formation without risk or confusion and under no circumstances so as to interfere with their opening a fire when necessary. When circumstances render it imprudent for the skirmishers to endeavour to join the support, they will in that case run in upon their own centre, and form the rallying square.

Supports and reserve approach the threatened point previously to forming square.

32. On the first appearance of cavalry the nearest support should move towards the threatened point, and, forming square as directed in Sec. 24, of Part II, for a company in close order, interpose itself as much as possible between the skirmishers and the cavalry. The main reserve will at the same time draw nearer the supports, and, forming square, sustain the smaller bodies of which it forms the centre.

Rallying square.

33. The ALARM followed by the ASSEMBLY will be sounded on the first appearance of the enemy's cavalry, when, if there is no cover within reach, and not sufficient time to form on the support, the skirmishers will form the RALLYING SQUARE, the officer on whom it forms taking care so to station himself for its formation, as not to cloud the front of the support.

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Rallying square need not be formed when cover is at hand.

34. But when there is cover near, such as a hedge, ditch, copse, &c., the skirmishers should at once make for it, and aid the supports by a cross fire.

General remark

35. Even in the most sudden rush of cavalry that can happen, when there is neither cover nor time to form the rallying square, the individual firmness and intelligence of the men should enable them to protect each other. They should be taught to make formations for defence, however small, against contingencies of this nature; two files uniting in the first instance back to back, then three and four files, and so on: this practice will teach them to make the best use of their numbers, whatever they may be; and a skirmisher should be taught to know and feel that *individually*, a man on foot, with a loaded musket and bayonet in his hand, ought to be a match for any horseman. To face the danger with firmness and steadiness is, in the smallest bodies, and in the worst emergencies, the safest course.

### S. 5. *Advanced Guard.*

General intention of advanced guards.

1. Advanced guards are formed for the purpose of feeling the way through a country in front of a column, or the columns of an army—to gain intelligence of the enemy, and to give timely notice of his vicinity or approach, in order that the main body may have time to prepare either for making or repelling an attack.

Their strength and composition vary according to the object contemplated.

2. Advanced guards are sometimes pushed a considerable distance in advance of the column, for the purpose of seizing a post, or

General rules applicable to all.

of anticipating the enemy on some important point: their strength and composition, therefore, must depend on the distance they are required to precede the main body, the object contemplated, the nature of the country, and a variety of other circumstances which can only be appreciated on the spot. The general rules and principles, however, which should govern the one, are, with a few obvious exceptions, applicable to all. To guard against surprise or unexpected collision with the enemy,—to watch his motions, or to gain intelligence of his situation,—and to cover and conceal the movements and formation of the main body,—are manifestly the great leading principles upon which advanced guards should be conducted, whether the object be to fall suddenly on the enemy's piquets, to dislodge him from a post, or merely to give warning of his vicinity. Vigilance, and a careful study of localities, are in every case the mainsprings of success.

Advanced guard on the line of march.

Plate 4.

3. When a column is marching along a road, the advanced guard will be composed of one or more companies, divided into four parts or sections; the two rear sections [under the command of the senior officer] will form the reserve, advanced in front of the column; the second section from the front will be 200 yards in front of the reserve; and the leading section will be 100 yards in front of the second section, and will detach a double file, under the command of a corporal, 100 yards in its front, and a double file to each flank, 100 yards from the road, and about 50 yards more retired than the corporal's party. These detached files must carefully examine all houses and enclosures



*Advanced Guard on the Line of March.*



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within their reach ; but should more distant objects present themselves, patrols must be detached from the second section for their particular examination. Single files of communication will be placed between the different divisions, and also between its reserve and the head of the column. The distance between these two last must be regulated by circumstances ; but it will be commonly estimated at about 500 yards during the day, and about 300 during the night.

Precautions to be observed on approaching a village.

4. An advance guard, on approaching a village, must proceed with great precaution, if feeling for an enemy. The reserve and advanced parties on the road must be halted beyond the reach of musketry from the village, while strong flanking parties are sent round the outskirts so as to threaten the rear. The corporal's party on the road may then move on, in single files, with a considerable interval between them, followed by as many files in succession, from the support, as may be deemed expedient ; and the supports and reserve will move forward when it has been ascertained that the place is not in the occupation of the enemy. The leading files should be instructed that the first object to be sought for in a village is the church, from the belfry of which a view of the surrounding country may be gained.

Similar precautions to be observed previous to entering a defilé or hollow way.

5. The head of an advanced guard must never commit itself by entering a defilé, or hollow way, without previously occupying the heights on either sides by flanking parties. When the heights are thus crowned, the leading party on the road will send on a single file, which will be followed by others

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

in succession, near enough to keep the preceding one in view—the flanking parties on either hand continuing to precede the centre until the défilé is passed, when they will gradually fall back to their former stations, and the whole move forward in the original formation.

Advanced guard on a plain in presence of an enemy.

6. An advanced guard on a plain, in presence of an enemy, is in reality no more than a line of skirmishers with their supports and reserve; and the rules laid down on this subject, under the head of *Skirmishing*, are therefore applicable to the object here contemplated.

A line of skirmishers not required when not in actual contact with the enemy.

7. Generally speaking, however, when not in actual contact with the enemy, an advanced guard need not be preceded by a line of skirmishers; detached parties and judicious patrolling are the best means of attaining the desired end. One general rule obtains, *viz.*, that woods, villages, and, generally, every local object capable of affording concealment to an enemy, will invariably be turned, and the rear threatened previous to being *felt* in front: by this means the enemy will be discovered, and most frequently dislodged without loss, as he will naturally fall back before his retreat is intercepted, while, if attacked at once in front, without such previous movements, he might still retire in safety after having inflicted a severe loss on the assailants.

General rule in approaching villages, woods, &c.

Bogs and impassable ground of every kind to be carefully examined.

8. Should the advanced guards meet with bogs or other impassable ground of any extent, they must not leave it between themselves and the column, without careful examination; otherwise they might leave an

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enemy concealed within the chain, and not only risk being cut off themselves, but compromise the safety of the column.

The commander of an advanced guard to observe every thing himself, and to be distinct und accurate in his reports.

9. The officer commanding an advanced guard should endeavour to observe every thing himself, taking especial care that any reports he may have to make are clear, decided, and correct.

Conduct of detached parties and patrols in falling in with the enemy.

10. No specific rules can be laid down for the conduct of an advanced guard in every case of falling in with an enemy. It cannot, however, be too strongly impressed on all employed on services of this nature, that nothing is more dangerous or reprehensible than offensive or defensive measures undertaken in an isolated manner : advanced parties and patrols should never, therefore, be suffered to engage of their own accord, if it can possibly be avoided ; but, as before remarked, they should, on the first appearance of an enemy, either fall back under cover or hide themselves on the spot (making a signal to the rear) according as he may be coming on, or stationary,—in either case securing all the advantages of a surprise.

Every advanced guard should be provided with axes and intrenching tools.

11. Every advanced guard should be provided with a proportion of axes and intrenching tools.

The advanced guard should invariably reform after dislodging the enemy from any post.

12. No advanced guard or detached party of any kind, after carrying a post, should ever be permitted to advance without re-forming. The men should on no account pursue the flying enemy, but re-form rapidly, and wait for further orders.

Usual mode of forming advanced and rear guards in the field.

13. Armies in the field usually form their advanced and rear guards from the troops employed on piquet : these, whether they

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

consist of two or more companies, observing different roads, are under the field officer of the day, and the formation and arrangement will be precisely similar to that laid down in No. 3 of this section. The commanding officer retaining at least a third of his whole force, in reserve, in rear of the centre.

## PATROLES.

## Strength.

1. The employment and judicious management of patrols, form an essential part of the precautionary duties of an advanced guard. They may consist of a subaltern's party, a serjeant and twelve, or a corporal and six men, according to circumstances.

## Utility of Patrols.

2. The object of a patrol is to obtain intelligence, and to ascertain the presence of an enemy. They are detached to examine houses, copses, enclosures, &c. near the line of march, capable of affording concealment to the enemy, and too distant to be inspected by the advanced or flanking parties. All heights from which a view of the surrounding country can be obtained, should also be ascended by patrols, precaution being used to see every thing, if possible, without being seen.

A Patrol never commits itself in action.

3. It is a rule, therefore, that a patrol never commits itself in action, if it can be avoided, but retires (under cover if possible) as soon as the requisite information is obtained.

The rules laid down for advanced guards apply equally to Patrols.

4. The rules laid down for the conduct of an advanced guard, in approaching places capable of concealing an enemy, apply with equal force, although upon a smaller scale, to a patrol. The house, or object, to be

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searched should, in the first place, be turned by one or two files on either side, and beyond the certain range of musketry; and this movement of itself will, in most cases, induce the enemy to leave it; whereas, if the approach were made in front, it could only be at the certain risk of losing men without an object. When the flanking files have passed the house, so as to command the rear, a file of the patrol advances to examine it, another file remaining behind will watch its motions, and be ready to give assistance, supported by the reserve if required. As soon as the file in advance is satisfied that there is no enemy in the place, one of the men will make a signal, by holding up his firelock above his head, in a horizontal position, and the rear file will join and move forward as before; the flanking files falling back at the same time to their former places.

To ascend a hill.

5. On coming to a hill the same caution will be observed. The patrol halting at the bottom will detach a file or two, in both directions round the base, before any one is permitted to ascend. A file is then sent to the top with instructions not to show itself upon the summit, but to make its observations from behind the brow, creeping on, or lying down, according to circumstances, and the nature of the ground. If no enemy is in sight, a signal as above directed will be made.

#### S. 6. *Rear Guard.*

General intention of rear guards.

1. A rear guard is an advanced guard reversed: it covers the retreating column from any sudden assault in the rear, and it pre-

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

vents the enemy from stealing round, and gaining on the flanks of the main body. The prevention of straggling is also an important part of the duties of a rear guard.

Preparations for retreat are made in the rear.

2. All preparations for retreat, before the enemy, should be made in the rear. For example, a line, previous to falling back, will extend its skirmishers behind it, concealed from view as much as possible, and with supports and reserve ready to sustain them: these become the rear guard. In many cases an intended retrograde movement is concealed under a demonstration of attack, and the troops so employed in deceiving the enemy, will naturally become the rear guard, after that object is attained.

Strength and composition dependent on local considerations.

3. The strength and composition of a rear guard can only be determined on the spot, by the force and vicinity of the enemy, the nature of the country, and the degree of resistance that may probably be required, to give the column time to surmount any obstacles or difficulties in the route. The object being that of securing the retreat from interruption or annoyance, resistance will generally cease when that end is gained; but when the pursuit is close and vigorous, every hedge-row, copse, or defilé becomes a post, which a rear guard must defend with obstinacy to the last.

Degree of resistance required from a rear guard.

4. Every rear guard should be well provided with axes and intrenching tools, to enable it to block up defilés and bridges, to break up the road, and throw impediments in the way of a pursuing enemy.

To be well provided with intrenching tools and axes.

The rear guard to be informed of all obstacles in the route, and

5. When a retreating column meets with obstacles in its route, or has to pass a bridge

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or defilé, an officer will be sent back to apprise the rear guard of the circumstance, in order that it may be prepared to hold the enemy in check, during the delay which must ensue ; and when hard pressed it will generally be advisable to halt a detachment at any defilé or bridge the column may have passed, to make preparations for defence ; to protect the rear guard in passing over, and afterwards to assist it in maintaining the post as long as may be practicable or expedient. Posts of this description may often be defended until dark, and thereby afford the greatest relief to the retreating column.

Flanking parties to be constantly on the alert to prevent the enemy from stealing round the flanks.

6. While the rear guard is disputing any point, the flanking parties must be particularly on the alert, to notice any attempt the enemy may make to turn its flanks, by a ford for example, when the stand is made at a bridge. Indeed, it may always be presumed, that a pursuing enemy will lose no opportunity, that may present itself, of stealing round the flanks of their opponents.

Retiring across a plain in presence of infantry only.

7. On coming to a plain (where there is no danger from cavalry), and closely followed by the enemy, the reserve and supports retire rapidly into the plain, beyond the range of musketry from the enclosures. The supports will then extend and lie down, and the skirmishers, when driven to the edge of the inclosures, will run quickly to the rear, pass through the new line of skirmishers, and close into supports.

In presence of cavalry.

8. But when the enemy's cavalry is near, the main reserve will halt in compact order, and draw off the skirmishers before retiring into the plain. The supports first retire past

the reserve on either flank ; and on a given signal the skirmishers will run rapidly to the rear, close upon the supports, and the whole forming close columns of sections will retire with expedition across the open country. The main reserve will then fall back with as much celerity as may be consistent with good order ; and the rear guard, formed in separate bodies, but affording mutual protection and support to one another, may thus retire in safety across an open country, in presence of a body of the enemy's cavalry : on again reaching the inclosed country the hedge-rows must be speedily lined by the supports, and the original formation is resumed.

*S. 7. To pass a Bridge or short Defilé in contact with an enemy.*

Advancing.

Plate 5.

1. The skirmishers, on reaching the margin of the river, or the line of whatever other impediment may form the defilé, will (when the flanks cannot be gained) lie down and cover themselves, keeping up a brisk fire upon the enemy. The supports on approaching the bridge (or defilé) will close in upon the one which may be opposite to it, and, supported by the reserve, charge and force the passage with the bayonet: this point gained, and the reserve having crossed the bridge, the supports will *gradually* extend from their centre, the reserve maintaining possession of the bridge until the old skirmishers (who keep up their fire, until clouded in succession by the new line) have crossed in double time, and formed themselves into supports. The whole then move forward according to the original formation.

Retiring

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Retiring.

Plate 6.

2. In retiring, the reserve first passes, and takes post at the bridge-head (or the outlet of the defilé), immediately detaching parties to both flanks to line the river, in extended order. The supports close in upon the one which is opposite the bridge, and, in compact order, halt in front of it, until the line of skirmishers is withdrawn: in order that this may be effected without unnecessary delay, the skirmishers should incline towards the bridge when at some distance from it, and, on arriving near it, they should run briskly over it, and form in rear of the reserve. The supports will then cross, and in like manner joining the reserve, the whole will be prepared to defend the bridge or to retire, as may be ordered. The new line of skirmishers commence firing as soon as their front is clear; and if the retreat is to be continued, supports are again thrown out between them and the reserve.

S. 8. *Piquets and their Sentries.*

Piquets of two descriptions.

1. Piquets are of two descriptions—outlying and inlying—varying in strength according to the extent of front to be guarded, and the liability to be attacked. The outlying piquet is thrown forward a considerable distance in front of the camp or the cantonments—the inlying piquet usually remains in camp accoutred, and ready to turn out, and support the former at a moment's warning; having sentries advantageously posted for hearing and observing any alarm in front, and communicating, when necessary, by patrols with the advanced post.

Individual judgment and vigilance peculiarly called for upon piquet.

2. There are no duties in the field more important than those of the outpost, or which should call forth, in a higher degree, the individual judgment and exertion of all employed on them ; neither is there any other situation, within the range of military service, where the misconduct of a single man could be productive of such serious consequences, as might attend any want of vigilance in the advanced sentry of a piquet.

Principal duties of an outlying piquet.

3. The principal duties of an outlying piquet are to secure the safety and repose of the camp, to prevent reconnoissances being made by the enemy, and to gain intelligence of his movements, and even of his intentions, by patrolling, by careful watching, by examining the peasantry of the country, and by all those indications with which every officer ought to be familiar—such as the strengthening of the enemy's posts, unusual bustle or movement in his lines, the sound of troops, or artillery, on the march at night, the diminution or the increase of fires, &c. &c.

How composed and distributed.

4. Piquets in the field are usually taken by brigades, the different regiments furnishing one or more companies as may be required ; a field-officer of the day is placed in charge of the whole. The reserve piquet, of such strength as may be necessary, remains under the field-officer of the day, at least four hundred yards in rear of the centre of the line of advanced piquets, and which is taken up by companies, in direct communication with each other. The chain of sentries is thrown out in front, sufficiently in advance to give timely notice of the enemy's approach, and so placed as to insure uninterrupted communication, from one flank to the other. The field-

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officer will use his discretion in detaching officers' parties in advance of the captain's piquets, to furnish the sentries, and support the chain ; but, on all occasions, such parties should be stationed before the flanks of the general line of piquets.

Necessary precautions for an officer ordered upon piquet.

5. An officer ordered upon piquet must take a close and careful survey of the country he passes over, in marching from the camp or the cantonment to his post, in order that he may defend it properly if attacked and driven back. The strongest points, in his line of retreat, ought to be selected, and noted down if necessary ; and the officer's mind should be previously made up, as far as possible, upon the best mode of disputing the ground he must retire over.

How posted.

6. The officer intrusted with the posting of a piquet must select its station near the principal road to be guarded, and behind, if practicable, all cross roads leading into it, and taking especial care to leave no road unguarded on its flanks, by which it might be surprised in its rear. The piquet should, as much as possible, be concealed from observation, and where the ground naturally affords neither cover nor protection, the defect must be remedied by artificial means, and the employment of such materials as may be procurable on the spot.

Measures for immediate security.

7. As soon as the piquet arrives on the ground it is to occupy, sentries will be thrown out in elevated situations upon its flanks and front, for *immediate security*, and the officer commanding, *having reconnoitred the neighbourhood of his post, with a strong patrol, in person*, will proceed to form a chain, covering

his front and flanks, and communicating with the piquets on his right and left.

*Line of Sentries.*

8. In selecting the line for the chain of sentries, care must be taken not to extend it too much,—to post the men in the most advantageous situations for observing the roads and country in front, and to keep them as much concealed from the view of the enemy as the nature of their duty will admit. It is very desirable that every elevated spot, which overlooks the communications in the rear, should be taken within the chain of sentries; but if this cannot be effected without extending the sentries too much, a party must be sent to occupy the height during the day, and care must be taken to support and ensure the retreat of this party if attacked. Sentries must be so placed, moreover, as to secure one another from being cut off, and at such distances as to prevent any enemy from passing unperceived between them during the night. Sentries never should be posted near any copse or cover from which a sudden rush might be made upon them; but all woods, ravines, &c., in the neighbourhood of the post, must be watched, and occasionally visited by patrols, to prevent the enemy from assembling, unobserved, a body of troops in the vicinity. No sentry should be placed at such a distance from the piquet, that the report of his musket may not be distinctly heard from it; and he should always have the sentry on his right and left in view, as well as the intermediate ground between them, to prevent the enemy from passing through the chain unnoticed.

*To guard against surprise.*

9. In order to guard against surprise of every kind, the sentries of an advanced piquet will

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be invariably posted double, and at night, or in thick or foggy weather, one of them will be always walking to the right, till he approaches the adjoining file, while the other is looking vigilantly out to his front. In this mode they alternately relieve each other. During the day an officer, provided with a good spy-glass, should always be kept on the look-out, in the best situation for commanding a view of the country occupied by the enemy.

**Detached parties.**

10. If the chain of sentries should be so far extended as to make it inconvenient to relieve them all from the advanced piquet, one or two small parties, under the command of an officer, may be detached to a convenient situation, for the purpose of furnishing the sentries, and forming an intermediate support to the chain.

**Advanced piquets require three reliefs.**

11. All advanced piquets must have three reliefs.

**When any thing particular is observed in front, or firing is heard.**

12. When any thing particular is observed in front during the day, such as any change in the enemy's sentries or piquets, the disappearance of any sentry of our own, any unusual bustle or accession of force in front, troops in motion, or the appearance of a cloud of dust indicating that troops are on the march, or when firing is heard by any sentry, one of the sentries will instantly run in, and report to the officer what he has noticed, taking care to mention the circumstance at any post he may happen to pass on his way.

**When piquets are attacked.**

13. When piquets are attacked, the same rule will be observed as in all other skirmishing, and the detached officers' parties will not run in on the main body, but support the skirmishers; and when compelled to retire,

they will, if possible, retreat on the flank of the main body, and thereby afford mutual support to each other. When a sentry is satisfied that the enemy is moving on to the attack, he should not hesitate to fire at once, although the enemy may be far beyond the range of his musket.

When posted in a village.

14. If a piquet should be posted in a village, the main body must be placed so as to be behind the junction of all the roads that lead to the enemy's position, the entrances from which must be blocked up, or dug across, with the exception of a small retiring path for the sentries placed in observation in front. Small parties will be placed behind each barricade for its defence.

First duty of an officer on piquet.

15. The first care of an officer ought to be the strengthening of his post, by constructing abbatis, breastworks, &c. ; and particularly where the defence of a bridge or ford is intrusted to him, he ought never to omit to throw up something of the kind to protect his men, and impede the advance of the enemy. An officer ought not, however, without permission, to block up a main road with other materials than such as are easily removed.

A piquet must not shut itself up without orders.

16. A piquet ought not to shut itself up in a house, or an enclosure, with the intention of defending itself to the last extremity, unless particularly ordered to do so, or that circumstances may render it necessary at the moment, for the preservation of the party, in the expectation of support.

Under what circumstances a piquet should retire.

17. A piquet may with safety defend its front as long as its flanks are not attacked, but as soon as the enemy attempts to surround the post, the piquet must begin to retire.

Signals

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Night duties



Signals by day.

18. Signals may be established by sentries during the day :—For instance—one man holding up his cap on the muzzle of his fire-lock, signifies that the enemy's patrol is advancing ; and both men holding up their caps in the same manner, signifies that the enemy is advancing in force.

Flags of truce.

19. On the approach of a flag of truce, one sentry will advance and halt it at such distance as will prevent any of the party who compose it from overlooking the piquet-posts. The other sentry will acquaint the officer commanding the piquet of the circumstance, who will, according to his instructions, either detain the flag of truce at the outpost, until he has reported to the field-officer of the day, or he will forward the party blind-folded to the camp, under an escort. If the flag of truce is merely the bearer of a letter or parcel, the piquet officer must receive it, and instantly forward it to headquarters. After having given a receipt, the flag of truce will be required forthwith to depart, and none of the piquet must be suffered to hold any conversation with this party.

Night duties.

20. At night the situations of the sentries ought to be changed, and drawn back from their elevated situations, so as to have the highest ground before them, as an object is more easily discerned at night from a low situation, than when looking from a hill. Night sentries will patrol alternately to the front (as well as to the flanks) to a distance of twenty or thirty yards, lying down also with the ear to the ground for the purpose of listening. The tread of men or horses on the march, the noise of artillery in motion, the

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

neighing of horses, &c., are heard at a great distance in the stillness of the night; and not unfrequently the knowledge of an intended attack at day-light may be gained in this way.

Precaution to be used for directing the sentry's attention to the proper quarter.

21. To prevent sentries from looking in a wrong direction during the night, two forked sticks will be placed in the ground, and a horizontal stick be laid across them, so as to point out by looking along the situation of the enemy's posts. This precaution is also particularly useful to the sentries of reserve and inlying piquets, directing their attention to the proper quarter.

22. The sentries ought to be relieved every hour during the night.

The countersign only given to the sentries.

23. When a sentry is posted, the countersign only is given him; and no person under the rank of a non-commissioned officer is usually intrusted with the parole, which serves as a test for passing armed bodies inside the line.

Challenging of a double sentry.

24. The moment a sentry sees or hears any person, he calls out, "Halt,"—"Who comes there?" and at the same time brings his firelock to the charge, fronting the party; his comrade instantly retires a few paces behind him, uncovering to the right, cocks his piece, and also comes to the charge. This will ensure support to the sentry in advance, and prevent both men from being committed at the same time, as well as the piquet from being surprised. If the answer is not satisfactory, the leading sentry instantly fires and retires behind his comrade.

25. If more than one individual approach the post, the sentry will, on all occasions,

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command them to halt, and one man only to advance. If there is the slightest hesitation, *or more than one* attempt to move, the sentry will instantly fire.

**Deserters.**

26. Sentries must be very distrustful of people who answer the challenge by saying "Deserters;" they must be immediately ordered to lay down their arms in the rear, and not suffered to approach the sentry, until a party arrives from the support to receive them and then singly. If the suspected person hesitate, the sentry will instantly fire.

**Fires.**

27. When a piquet is permitted to have a fire, it should always be as much as possible concealed from observation; and the alarm post of the piquet, in the event of an attack at night, should invariably be fixed at a short distance in the rear of the fire, so as to prevent the piquet from being seen, when drawn up, and compelling the enemy to expose themselves while passing the fire in coming on.

Advanced piquets to be under arms an hour before day-light.

28. Piquets will get under arms in the morning an hour before day-light; and if every thing appears quiet in front, the officer will, as soon as he can discern objects distinctly, proceed to occupy the same posts that he held the day before; but he must previously send forward patrols to feel his way, and should any change be remarked in the enemy's posts or position, he will report it immediately to the officer of the day.

When advanced piquets should be relieved.

29. As attacks are most commonly made about day-break, a desirable accession of force will be always obtained by relieving the piquets at that hour.

Arrival of the relief.

30. When the new piquet has arrived, the officer commanding it will accompany the officer of the old piquet along the chain of posts, and this officer will point out the situation and strength of all the enemy's posts, and afford every other information to the relieving officer, in his power.

Duty of the officer of the old piquet.

31. When the sentries are relieved, and the weather is sufficiently clear to ascertain that there is no indication of an attack, the officer who has been relieved will forward a written report to the field officer of the day, fall back upon the reserve piquet, and march to camp in the same order as when he advanced; *but if the advanced piquets should be attacked before he arrives in camp*, he will consider it his duty to face instantly about, and march to their support.

Patrolling.

32. One of the most necessary and effectual methods of preventing surprise, and of gaining information, remains to be noticed, viz. *patrolling*, without which, however active and alert the sentries, the service of the outpost never can be properly fulfilled. The mode of conducting these patrols, their strength, and the distance to which they may be sent, are all necessary dependant on the ever varying local circumstances in which piquets may be placed; but it may be laid down as a good general rule, that, when near the enemy, a patrol should be sent out once between every relief during the night.

Vigilance, silence, and circumspection indispensable in patrolling.

33. Vigilance, silence, and circumspection must be strictly enjoined upon all patrols: no noise must on any account be made, and when any thing is to be communicated, it should be done in a whisper.

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It is not pretended to lay down exact rules for conducting patrols in every case that may occur on service, but one or two of the most usual modes of carrying on this important duty may be briefly adverted to.

Patrolling in front of the line of sentries.

34. The patrol, on leaving the piquet, should, when practicable, communicate in the first instance with the next post upon the right (or left), and patrol cautiously along the whole front of the line of sentries, just near enough to see them, and communicating with the next post upon the left (or right) return again to the piquet by the rear of the chain. The sentries must not be thrown off their guard by the frequent appearance of these patrols, but be taught to expect an enemy in all who may approach them: some preconcerted signal, or interchange of countersign in a low tone, should be used, and which should be changed at every relief. Should the patrol, in returning along the rear of the sentries, fall in with the enemy, who must in this case have passed through the chain, a continued fire should be kept up to alarm the piquet, and prevent surprise.

When the enemy's posts are distant.

35. Patrols must also be sent along the roads in the direction of the enemy's posts, to such distance as may be deemed expedient. These patrols must be preceded by *feelers*, quick intelligent men, selected for that duty, whom no sound will escape, and whose experienced ears will detect the approach of danger long before it reaches them. A patrol must above all things avoid unnecessary firing, or, in other words *false alarms*: on hearing the approach of footsteps the *feelers* should instantly fall back to the patrol; and should the sounds indicate the

advance of a larger body than a patrol, one or two men should be sent back with all haste to inform the officer of the piquet, who will make immediate preparations for defence. the patrol retires steadily and unobserved, if possible, upon the piquet; but if perceived and overtaken by the enemy, an incessant fire must be maintained, in order to apprise the camp that the enemy is coming on in force; although it may safely be inferred, that if the piquets know their duty, and are judiciously drawn up for the defence of the roads, it will be extremely difficult for an enemy, however strong, *having failed in his plan for taking the advanced posts by surprise*, to make head, under all the disadvantages of a night attack, when resolutely opposed by men who know the ground, and whose plans have been previously concerted for disputing those points in their line of retreat, where the disparity of numbers must, in the dark, be in a great measure neutralized.

To avoid exchanging shots with the enemy's patrols.

36. In falling in with an enemy's patrol in advance of the chain of sentries, it will always be most prudent to retire at once without exchanging shots, which could only tend to harass and disturb the troops.

A strong patrol to be sent out just before day-light.

37. A strong patrol will always be sent some distance, on towards the enemy's posts, just before day-light, and this patrol, above all others, must proceed with redoubled caution, for fear of falling in with the enemy's columns, waiting for day-light to attack.

38. In the event of an attack, the commander of a piquet must ever bear in mind, that the great object of his efforts is to gain sufficient time to enable the main body in his

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rear to get under arms and prepare for action. The points he is to dispute in falling back having been previously selected, few cases can occur in which it will be impossible to attain that end, without endangering the safety of his piquet; but even in an extreme case, he must remember that it is his duty to sacrifice himself, rather than be driven in upon the main body, before it has had time to form.

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GENERAL OUTLINE OF FIELD TRAINING TO BE PRACTISED BY  
BATTALIONS OF LIGHT INFANTRY, AND BY OFFICERS IN GENERAL.

THE study of localities, and instruction in the knowledge and choice of ground, whether for offensive or defensive purposes, are the only sound principles upon which efficient light troops can be formed. This study and instruction must be strictly practical, extending progressively through all the different grades, until brought home to the understanding of the private, who, when in extended order and left in a great measure to himself, must be as capable of selecting the ground best suited to his individual purposes, as is the officer, or non-commissioned officer, of posting his party to the best advantage. The knowledge, here insisted on, is to be sought for in the cultivation of those great inherent qualities of the eye, which enable us to measure distances, and at a glance to estimate the nature and utility of every local object that presents itself. It is this knowledge that *alone* distinguishes the *well-trained* skirmisher, and as it is only to be acquired according to the opportunities that are afforded for its exercise, too much time and attention cannot be devoted to the attainment of an object, upon which the efficiency of light troops in the field so materially depends. Light infantry battalions, therefore, should

be trained to act, in extended order, on every possible variety of ground; and whenever local circumstances admit of it, should frequently be exercised, *across a country*, in all the various duties they are liable on service to be called on to perform. This practical training may be advantageously carried on, on commons, waste lands, and on the sea-beach, when within reach of the quarters of the regiment, and sometimes (with permission) over tracts of cultivated land in winter, when the fences are not of a nature to be injured by it. But even in situations where none of these advantages are enjoyed, the numerous roads, which intersect every part of the united kingdom, will always afford the means of teaching many useful lessons in the real duties of the field.

It is not contemplated, nor indeed would it be practicable to lay down precise or specific rules for the guidance of commanding officers in the practical course of field discipline here prescribed: upon their judgment and experience, the progress and proficiency of their corps, in *individual* expertness and intelligence, must, from the very nature of the instruction, mainly depend; while no rules can supply the want of adequate attention and capacity in the instructor. All, therefore, that can be desired on this point, is, that the subject should be classed under certain heads, with a few accompanying remarks, pointing out, in general terms, the chief objects to be held in view; so that an uniform system may prevail, varying perhaps a little in the method of teaching, but still arriving, although by different roads, at the same end. It cannot be too strongly inculcated upon those intrusted with the command of light troops, that in all operations, *in extended order*—where every man is, in a great measure, thrown upon his own resources—success depends as much on the intelligence and tact, as on the moral courage of the soldier. In line the voice of his commander directs and guides him, and he mechanically conforms to every movement that is ordered; but, in skirmishing, his quick perception of what his passing around him, and of every advantage that the ground presents to him, inspiring confidence into all his actions, can alone insure his acting with energy, comparative safety, and success.

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## INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS.

The study of topography.

1. An aptitude in forming a correct opinion of a country, and a thorough acquaintance with the relative fitness or unfitness of ground for military purposes, are indispensable qualifications in all officers; but more especially so in the light infantry officer, who, when on service, may be daily called on to form a safeguard to the camp, to guide the column of route, or to cover the column of manœuvre. It is evident, therefore, that without previously formed habits of estimating local circumstances and position, no officer can discharge, with credit to himself, or advantage to the service, the important duties of his station.

The map to be compared with the country it embraces.

2. Every officer should be provided with a map of the district in which his regiment may be quartered; and he should be required to study it, and to compare it with the country it embraces, so as to acquire a practical knowledge of its military features—roads, rivers, morasses, woods, hills, plains, towns, and villages—of whatever, in a word, is calculated to assist, or to impede, troops in offensive or defensive warfare.

Examination of the country along a given road.

3. The young officer is then directed to proceed a certain distance on any given road, and carefully examining the nature of the country, he will, in writing, submit his ideas and opinion of its military character to the consideration and correction of his commanding officer.

Choice of ground for piquets.

4. He is next required to select a spot upon which he would post his piquet (imagining the enemy in some given position), showing where his chain of day and night sentries

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

would be placed, and how he would defend the ground if attacked and forced to retire; again he will be required to show how he would proceed if ordered to drive back the enemy's piquet from a given post, so as to push them briskly in, without undue exposure, compelling them to abandon advantageous ground, by pressing on a flank or any other weak part of the line. In a word, the experience of the commanding officer cannot be better employed than in bringing to the knowledge and observation of those under him, the various situations in which they may be placed before an enemy, giving them habits of reflection, and a promptitude in deciding judiciously for themselves in every supposed emergency.

Patroles, or small reconnoitring parties.

5. Every officer should be carefully instructed in the mode of conducting patroles or small reconnoitring parties, sent in advance for the purpose of obtaining information: the means used for that purpose, by parties of this description, are, necessarily, strictly passive, and the knowledge sought for must be gained either from the people of the country, or by a careful observation of surrounding objects, from which an intelligent officer will at all times readily detect an enemy's vicinity. Every information gained should be committed to writing on the spot, and the officer must also be prepared to give, on his return, a correct report of his route, and of the country he has passed over. The form of this report cannot be too simple and distinct. In speaking of distances, the time taken in marching is to be preferred to any guess at actual measurement, and no vague terms should on any account be used.

Form o

Foraging

The report might run as follows:—

Form of Report.

At 6 A. M. marched from camp on the road leading to ——. At half an hour's march we reached a large farm, surrounded by a wall, situated on the road side, and capable of being converted into a strong post: at the distance of an hour's march from camp, the road, which becomes much broken and nearly impassable for guns, ascends a wooded hill, and for the next half hour passes over a very rough and wilderness country, rising abruptly into rugged hills upon *our* right, from which the road may be commanded by musketry, and upon *our* left the road was shut in by a succession of stagnant pools, overgrown with long reeds and rushes. At 8 A. M. we descended from the high ground by a steep path, and crossed a sluggish stream, about ten yards in breadth, by a single arched stone bridge of solid masonry, and too narrow to admit of carts or carriages passing on it: the bridge is commanded within two hundred yards from the ridge which we had quitted. The country beyond the river is flat, and laid out in a succession of meadows, divided by low mud fences, and well stocked with cattle. Ten minutes' march now brought us to the village of C—, situated in the plain, but with a small eminence rising behind it, on which the church and burying-ground, surrounded by a wall, are situated. The roads from D—, E—, and F—, unite in the village: here we learned that an enemy's cavalry patrol visited the village last evening, and that the enemy's advanced post is stationed at the town of G—, two leagues in advance, &c.

Foraging parties.

6. Officers must be instructed in the mode of conducting foraging parties, a duty of fre-

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

quent occurrence upon service, together with the precautions to be adopted for protecting the foragers from surprise or interruption, while in the act of foraging, by throwing out parties in advance, and having *good eyes*, on the look-out, from the most elevated spots in the neighbourhood. The precautions, to be observed on the march, are similar to those prescribed for the guidance of advanced and rear guards, with this difference, that the parties, thrown out towards the enemy, must be at a greater distance from the convoy, and they should be sufficiently strong to resist long enough to enable the foragers to get away.

## Defence of posts.

7. The defence of posts should constitute a most important branch of every officer's study ; for, upon service, all are liable to be detached, and to be placed in charge of posts with orders to defend them. In almost every case of this description, some measures must be taken to protect the party from being overcome by a superior enemy ; while, if placed to guard a bridge, or watch a ford, an officer, who neglected to strengthen his post by every means in his power, and to make the very most of his situation, would incur the hazard not only of his own destruction, but of entailing some disaster on the force from which he was detached. It is to be regretted that few opportunities occur in time of peace, of giving men and officers any practical lessons on this subject ; but it is at all times in the power of a commanding officer to explain the principle upon which posts are defended, by the construction of barricades and abattis, loop-holing houses, and intrenching, &c.

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## COMPANIES' PRACTICE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE MEN.

Instruction of the men in the choice and knowledge of ground.

1. The officers once thoroughly grounded in the practice and principles above adverted to, the training of the non-commissioned officers and privates will be comparatively easy. The same method of habituating and perfecting the *soldier's* eye in the judicious choice of ground for *individual purposes*, as that prescribed for the study of the officer *on a larger scale*, must be adhered to; and if the mistakes, which will necessarily be made in the commencement of the drill, in shifting from one spot to another, expecting cover where the ground does not afford it, are only noticed, and the error pointed out, the men will very soon pick up the habit, not only of selecting their successive stages with judgment, in advancing or retiring, but also of reaching them with the least risk and exposure to themselves.

Practical lessons in skirmishing by companies.

2. This practice should, in the first instance, be taught in small parties,—with a company, for example, one sub-division opposed to the other, with a sufficient number of officers or intelligent non-commissioned officers to watch the conduct and progress of *every man*. One party may be posted on a hill, or any piece of intersected ground, and the other ordered to attack them; every mistake and unnecessary personal exposure, on the part of the assailants, will, of course, be seen and pointed out to those who are attacked, and who, profiting by their errors and the lesson just received, will in turn be required to act as the assailants over the same ground, and show their comrades how they can creep in upon them.

Taking up a line of posts.

3. When the men are sufficiently expert in the above practice, which contains the

## LIGHT INFANTRY.

*whole secret* of good skirmishing, the corps should be frequently marched out, and the different companies directed to take up a line of posts, connecting any given points, and guarding such roads as may lead to the supposed camp or cantonments of the army. The commanding officer will see that these piquets are posted advantageously ; the *day* sentries properly placed, and situations chosen for the *night ones*. Parties, under the heads of flags of truce, deserters, &c. should then be directed to approach the sentries, in order to ascertain that all are properly acquainted with their duty.

Taking post before  
an enemy.

4. When sufficiently instructed in the mode of taking post, a company or two may be ordered to advance on any given road, and directed to select the most advantageous ground for establishing themselves as piquets for its protection from an attack to be made from the quarters of the regiment. The remainder of the corps may then move out, with advanced guard and flankers, instructed to feel for, without coming into actual contact with the enemy : the officer commanding the advance will take up his ground before the *supposed* enemy, near enough to watch his motions, without bringing on a fire between the parties. A corresponding chain of posts may then be established, and the various ways of patrolling, &c. practised.

Feeling for and driving  
in the enemy's  
posts.

5. Two or three companies being, in like manner, sent to take post on any road, the remainder of the battalion may follow for the purpose of dislodging them. It is here that the proficiency both of officers and men, in their business, will at once be seen. The former, in the selection of their ground and

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judicious use of their supports ; and the latter, in the judgment and intelligence they display in availing themselves of any cover and advantages the localities may offer. The annual allowance of blank cartridge can in no way be expended more beneficially than in this practical illustration of the art of skirmishing. In the above instructions there should be no previous understanding between the parties : the officers should be left to their own judgment in their measures and arrangements ; and the commanding officer will see at once, from the manner in which they occupy the ground and handle their supports, whether they are making the best use of their means, in detaching parties to protect, threaten, or turn a flank, and in bringing up the reserve to force a point, at the proper moment.

Concluding remark.

6. These lessons should be varied as much as possible ; and if the course of training, of which an outline has been given, is zealously and attentively followed out by every commanding officer of light infantry, it is confidently anticipated that the very best effects will result from it, in the superior intelligence and efficiency of a description of force, upon the excellence of which so very much depends, in all operations in the field.

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## BUGLE SOUNDS.

### No. I.—*To Extend.*



### No. II.—*To Close.*



### No. III.—*The Advance; also Forwards; after obliquing*



### No. IV.—*Halt; also to Annul; annuls every previous sounds excepting No. V.*

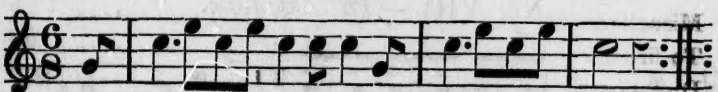


### No. V.—*To Fire.*





No. VI.—*To Cease Firing.*No. VII.—*To Retreat.*No. VIII.—*To Assemble.*No. IX.—*Incline to the Right.*No. X.—*Incline to the Left.*No. XI.—*The Alarm.*

*The Assembly of Officers.**The Quick Time.**The Double Time.*

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